

3.2 Aldam Boese (4)

MAN.CITY and WREXHAM **TEAM GROUPS**

SHOOT!

INCORPORATING
SOCCER MONTHLY

7th FEBRUARY, 1981

25p

Part one of the
**PAUL
MARINER
STORY**

**Why Breitner refuses to
play for West Germany**

WIN A PLACE AT
**Southampton's
Soccer School**
plus
**SAINTS KIT and
PATRICK BOOTS**

Sunderland defender Shaun Elliott

SHOOT view!

DOES anybody care about Crystal Palace's long suffering fans? Not only is their team fighting to survive in the First Division, but the administrators behind the scenes at Selhurst Park have treated the club's loyal supporters with the utmost contempt.

There is no other conclusion to be drawn from Ray Bloye's persistent denial that the club was to be taken over.

Mr Bloye has since agreed to a change of control, whilst keeping the fans in the dark about his intentions.

Only last autumn, Mr Bloye tried to brighten the gloom descending on Palace by stating that: "There is no crisis here. I spent several hours at the club and all I could see was smiling faces."

He made the comment after appointing Ernie Walley as "trialist" manager following the departure of Terry Venables to Queens Park Rangers.

SHOOT' VIEW said at the time: "Palace have given Walley the benefit of a season's trial as caretaker-manager, but soccer history suggests he should proceed with caution."

A few weeks later Walley was told that Malcolm Allison was to be given control of the team.

In mid-January Ron Noades, chairman of Wimbledon, was rumoured to be interested in buying Selhurst Park. Before that, Ernie Clay, supremo at Fulham, was said to be a possible buyer.

The fans were shocked again when Noades was invited onto the Palace board.

Meanwhile, Mr Bloye said nothing. His only comment after the Noades report: "Nothing astonishes me. I do not see why people will not let the matter rest. Last week it was supposed to be Ernie Clay who was buying the shares, this week it is Ron Noades. I have no comment."

What was clear at the time was that Ernie Clay and Palace Executive Club members had made offers for the Selhurst Park club and Mr Noades was a guest of Mr Bloye at Palace's home match with Stoke on January 10.

Restricted

His interest in Palace has led to much of the speculation. It is well known that Plough Lane, Wimbledon has a restricted financial covenant which limits the Fourth Division club's borrowing powers.

Crystal Palace have also discussed a ground sharing scheme with Brighton based in the vicinity of Gatwick Airport.

Rumour and counter rumour, statement and denial... Palace's long suffering fans deserve to be told the truth.

Fans are as much a part of a club as the paid-up officials. So many football clubs in this country treat their supporters as second class citizens.

How can clubs expect public support if they are undignified in their treatment of people who stand on rain-swept terraces in mid-winter?

Privacy is important in any walk of life. We respect the need for discretion in transfer deals, management changes, and other private matters.

But if a club is to be sold, or is to be moved to another area, the public have a right to be informed that that is the Chairman's intention.

On February 2, last season, Crystal Palace were seventh in the First Division. Their future seemed bright, their players were happy, and their board of directors seemed to be ambitious.

Twelve months later Selhurst Park is shrouded in apprehension.

Mr Bloye makes matters worse for the fans by not stating categorically his intentions for the future of Crystal Palace.

Football supporters deserve better treatment than that — or they might decide to spend their money elsewhere.



ONLY once in the history of the World Cup has the competition been won by a country outside its own continent: by Brazil in Sweden 13 years ago. I want to go on record now and say that in Spain, 1982, a South American side will win the World Cup in Europe again.

The recent Copa de Oro (Gold Cup) — the meeting of the previous World Cup winners (except England) to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the tournament in Uruguay showed just how far Europe has slipped behind South America.

Listen to the managers of the World Cup holders and the European Championship winners. César Menotti (Argentina): "Anyone can produce a European-type team given time. It's easy to reach a certain standard of fitness and organisation. In the end, though, it's players who win games."

'Valuable'

Jupp Derwall (West Germany): "I've picked up a lot of valuable pointers on how South American teams play — and they play well on their home soil in these temperatures. But next year they'll have to play in European conditions and then I'm sure we'll beat them."

I can only presume that Herr Derwall has never been to Spain in mid-summer. The weather will be as hot as anywhere in Europe, with temperatures in the mid to high 80's and more. And, of course, Spain, with its language and customs, will be like home from home for Argentina and company.

The mediocre football of the 1980 European Championship underlined just how far standards

The lesson could have



here have fallen. The individual brilliance of the Uruguayans, Argentines and Brazilians in Montevideo gave the rest of the world warning that when the 1982 World Cup kicks-off they will be the teams to fear, not West Germany, Belgium and Italy.

The best player in Europe right now is West Germany's Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and in fairness he did well in Montevideo. But a host of new South American stars came to the fore; Diego Maradona enhanced his claim as the world's top star, but Argentina centre-forward Ramón Díaz, for so long Leo Luque's understudy, showed anything Rummenigge can do, he can do also.

The Brazilians have a team to be feared once again... not that they were ever pushovers. It's just that in Brazil anything other than winning the World Cup is a tragedy.

HOW THEY FINISHED

GROUP 1

Uruguay 2, Holland 0
Uruguay 2, Italy 0
Holland 1, Italy 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	2	2	0	0	4	0	4
Holland	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Italy	2	0	1	1	1	2	1

GROUP 2

Argentina 2, W. Germany 1
Argentina 1, Brazil 1
Brazil 4, W. Germany 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	2	1	1	0	5	2	3
Argentina	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
W. Germany	2	0	0	2	2	6	0

FINAL

Uruguay 2 Brazil 1



Above: The ugly side of soccer — Brazil and Argentina show the wrong type of action. Ramón Díaz, who was in superb form for Argentina, is tackled by West Germany's Hans-Peter Briegel.

They're still one of the few sides who can guarantee to fill any stadium in the world; they're the only country to have played in all World Cups; in 30 years they have never finished lower than fourth in the World Cup; even their 'poor' teams of '74 and '78 still finished fourth and third.

Brazil visit Wembley in May and they'll take the game more seriously than Argentina did last year; Menotti wasn't under pressure, but the manager of Brazil is always likely to be sacked after a defeat.

Neutral observers in Uruguay were buzzing at the quality of the football they saw, a far cry from the stifled yawns during the European Championship last summer.

West Germany lost their 23-match unbeaten run under Jupp

England learned

Derwall. They haven't suddenly become a poor side; it's just that in the 2½ years since the 1978 World Cup they hadn't come up against such skilful opposition. They're still the best side in Europe, but that will mean little when the World Cup gets under way.

Sadly, England were not there. The authorities toyed with the idea of selecting a team from Liverpool, Nottingham Forest, Manchester United and — don't laugh — Crystal Palace, but the hectic League schedule made it impractical.

"We should have been there," says Forest assistant manager Peter Taylor. "We're usually told what we can do and what we can't do and if we want to compete at international level then we must be prepared to put ourselves out."

'Too late'

"Teams can only improve by playing against other quality sides. If England don't do well in Spain people will say 'we should have gone to Uruguay' — by then it'll be too late.

"Being there would have given England a chance to make up for the disappointment of the European Championship."

Ron Greenwood didn't go to Uruguay for "personal" reasons. The F.A. were represented by a regional coach, Robin Russell, who will report back to the England boss with his findings.

The F.A. didn't send more representatives because "England weren't taking part and the officials were wanted more here than there."

You can't turn back the clock.



Waldemar Victorino, who scored Uruguay's winning goal in the Final, jumps over Marini of Italy.

The Copa de Oro is now history.

England wouldn't have won it, but, as Taylor points out, it would have been a chance for certain players to possibly stake their claim for a regular place.

Stars such as Maradona, Diaz (Argentina), Paz, Ramos (Uruguay), Tita, Luizinho and Ze Sergio (Brazil) are young in years, yet already established internationals. We still don't know whether Glenn Hoddle, Bryan Robson or Terry Butcher have what it takes to survive at that level.

Ipswich skipper Mick Mills said: "From a personal point of view I would have loved the opportunity to play in Uruguay."

"But I can understand why the F.A. decided against it. For a start, I

feel our season is already overburdened with too many games and I cannot see how our League programme could have been cancelled.

"I'm not sure there was an awful lot of prestige attached to the actual competition and from what I saw on television the football was nothing special. But I do agree England could have learned a lot.

"For my money Argentina and West Germany are the countries who are out in front at international level. I still believe that, despite the results in Uruguay, and I am surprised Ron Greenwood or a member of his coaching staff did not attend.

"But there seem to be too many ifs and buts. Until the ruling bodies

get together and reorganise our domestic football we will always have problems. The way things are at the moment it would have been chaotic to cancel a large number of games."

A successful England is good for the Football League and in the long term one wonders whether the authorities shouldn't have moved heaven and earth to be there.

On the other hand, had they gone, what they would have seen may have frightened them so much perhaps it was better to have stayed at home.

England still have a long way to go to match the world's best.

CHRIS DAVIES

SIDELINES

● The reason only West Germany and some of Italy saw the games on T.V. was the price the company with the television rights were asking. The Uruguayans sold the rights to a 'middle man' for £1.5m and the Europeans considered the fee they were asked too high.

● Argentina have not beaten their rivals Brazil under Menotti. In almost six years and eight meetings Brazil have won five, with three draws.

● Three Argentina players won their 50th caps against West Germany: Passarella, Olguin and Tarantini — three of the back-four. Ardiles now has 47 caps to his credit.

● Ardiles and Maradona had only played together once before the tournament, back in 1977 when Maradona, aged 16, came on for his debut as sub in the second-half against Hungary.

● The Uruguayan defence has been almost impregnable lately. In their last six games they have scored 21 goals conceding just one, a penalty.

● The Italian, Artemio Franchi, president of UEFA, announced that a second Copa de Oro would take place in Italy in 1984 — the same year as the European Championship. This will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the second World Cup, which Italy won. Overkill?

● Not all was well at the Press Centre. Just before the competition began there was a lack of typewriters and paper; there simply weren't enough

phones, either, for the European reporters, struggling against deadlines with a four or five hour time difference. One Dutch journalist says it took him four hours to get a call to Holland, he was cut off after 30 seconds and couldn't get reconnected. His editor was not pleased...

● An estimated 17,000 Argentines made the journey across the River Plate to Montevideo to cheer on their country.

● The competition's mascot (seen opposite) was the biggest Christmas seller in Montevideo.

● Menotti can't complain about his preparation. With the exception of his three 'Europeans' his squad was together from November 23rd. Uruguay began their training even earlier, at the end of October. No players of either country played for their clubs after that.

● Uruguay coach Roque Maspoli, now 63, played in goal for Uruguay when they beat Brazil in the World Cup Final in 1950.

● Until their defeat by Argentina, West Germany had won 18 games and drawn five under Jupp Derwall. The 4-1 loss was the Germans' heaviest since 1958.

● The Dutch team contained only three of the side which lost to Argentina in the 1978 World Cup Final: Erny Brandts and the van der Kerkhof twins.

● The average age of the Copa de Oro participants was: Argentina — 25.9; Brazil — 25.8; Holland — 25.2; West Germany 25.2; Italy — 24.9 and Uruguay — 23.7.

● The oldest player there was the Dutch goalkeeper Pim Doesbrug, who's 37.

WIN A PLACE AT SOUTHAMPTON'S SOCCER SCHOOL

Saints manager Lawrie McMenemy takes a keen interest in coaching youngsters and has helped form residential summer soccer camps in the Southampton area. Lawrie has kindly donated FIVE places at the School for SHOOT readers during 29th August-2nd September. All expenses paid. Southampton players, including the England captain Kevin Keegan and the club's coaching staff, will be on hand to pass on their knowledge of the game. SHOOT will also be around to follow the progress of our FIVE prize-winners.

PLUS Saints replica playing kit, a pair of Patrick football boots and holdall for each of the lucky winners.

Answer the three questions about Southampton. Complete the coupon and paste it on a postcard (or the back of a sealed envelope).

1. Who was manager of Southampton before Lawrie McMenemy took over?
2. In 1975-76 Southampton won the F.A. Cup. Which club did they beat at Wembley?
3. The record transfer fee paid by Southampton before Kevin Keegan's arrival last summer was £400,000 in December, 1978. For which player?



Prizes will be awarded for the five correct entries judged to be the neatest with age taken into account. The competition is open to readers in the U.K. and Eire except employees and their families of IPC Magazines Ltd., the printers of SHOOT and Southampton F.C. The closing date is Monday, February 16th, 1981. The Editor's decision is final.

Post to: SHOOT/SOUTHAMPTON F.C. COMPETITION,
55 EWER STREET, LONDON SE9 6YP.

Name

Address.....

Age.....

MY ANSWERS ARE

1.....

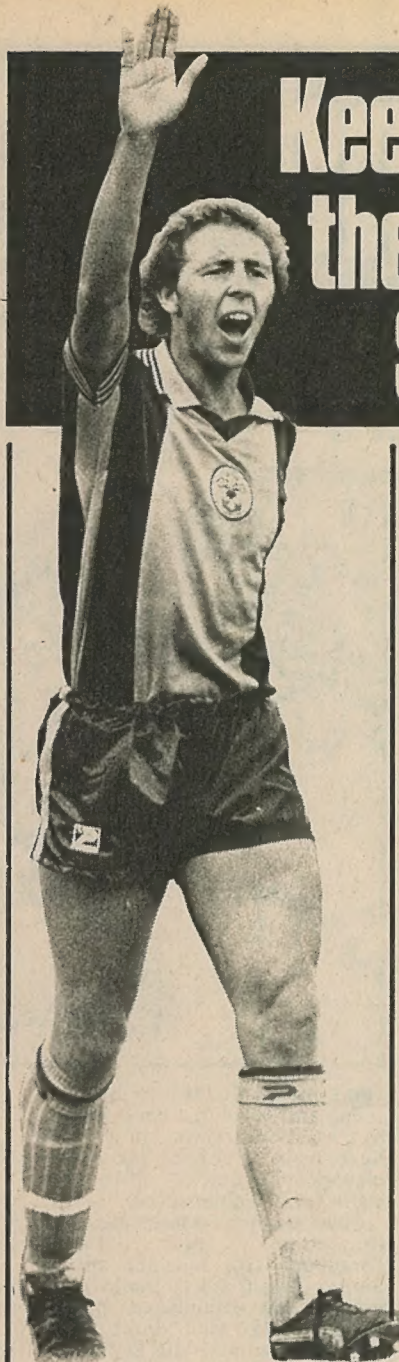
2.....

3.....

My shoe size:

Strip size: S. Boys. L. Boys. Youth. Men's.

Keegan helps the unknown Saints



"He has taken a lot of pressure off others around him, and I've been able to find space that just wasn't there last season.

"Kevin can take defenders away by drifting out of position, giving others the opportunity to exploit those gaps. People are going to be free when two defenders are often marking Kevin."

But off the field, Baker feels Keegan has had a deep effect on young men like himself. "He has been an object lesson for us in how to conduct yourself away from the game.

"He always has time and never turns down an autograph request. It doesn't hurt you to do your bit for the fans, and Kevin has shown everyone what a nice guy he is.

"Some players just use the game and take everything they can get out of it, without giving a thing back. Kevin has demonstrated we should not be like that."

Baker is currently fighting hard for a regular place in the side. He has been a fixture so far this season, but injuries ruled out amongst others, Keegan and Phil Boyer (before his transfer to Man. City), for several matches. Now everyone is fit, Lawrie McMenemy has a problem with team selection.

Battle

Youngsters like Baker and Trevor Hebbard face a battle to displace the established stars. But that doesn't worry Baker. "Any side aiming to win trophies must have a good squad. We've got that now and no one is guaranteed a place in the first team, apart from people like Keegan. That's only right, but it's up to us to make sure we obtain a regular spot."

Baker says Keegan has taken over the role of Alan Ball, who was the senior pro at the club until he left to manage Blackpool at the tail-end of last season. "I owe a lot to Alan, he taught me a great deal," says Baker. "He was the same as Kevin has been: a great professional, who is always helping the younger lads.

"Ball was a great guy to learn things from. He also made us realise discipline was important on the field, and kept us hard at it."

With his first Under 21 cap firmly tucked away at home, Baker hopes to continue his progress.

"We beat Norway 3-0 and although it wasn't a classic, we got a good result in the end. I'd been in the squad a couple of times before, but it was my first cap. I'm hoping I'll collect a few more and senior recognition would be nice, too. But that's for the future.

"For the present, we're all intent on one thing — winning a trophy this season. With Kevin in our side, you can never write us off."

THE advantages of Kevin Keegan's presence in the Southampton camp are becoming more and more apparent to manager Lawrie McMenemy.

The influence of the former European Footballer of the Year is obvious on the field, but it's also off the park that Keegan is having a profound effect on his team-mates.

The youngsters at The Dell have seen Keegan's attitude off the field, and lads like Graham Baker (above) admit it has been revealing.

At 19, Baker is playing in a side bursting with experienced international footballers, and he's also won his first England Under 21 cap. More seem certain to follow.

Baker says that Keegan's presence on the field has led to the inevitable results.

"More space for unknowns like myself, more opportunities for the other strikers. Kevin has missed a few games through hamstring trouble but when he has played, it's been obvious that defenders are looking for him 90 per cent of the time.

'MY COMEBACK SHOCK'

MY SOCCER
WORLD
**Gordon
McQueen**

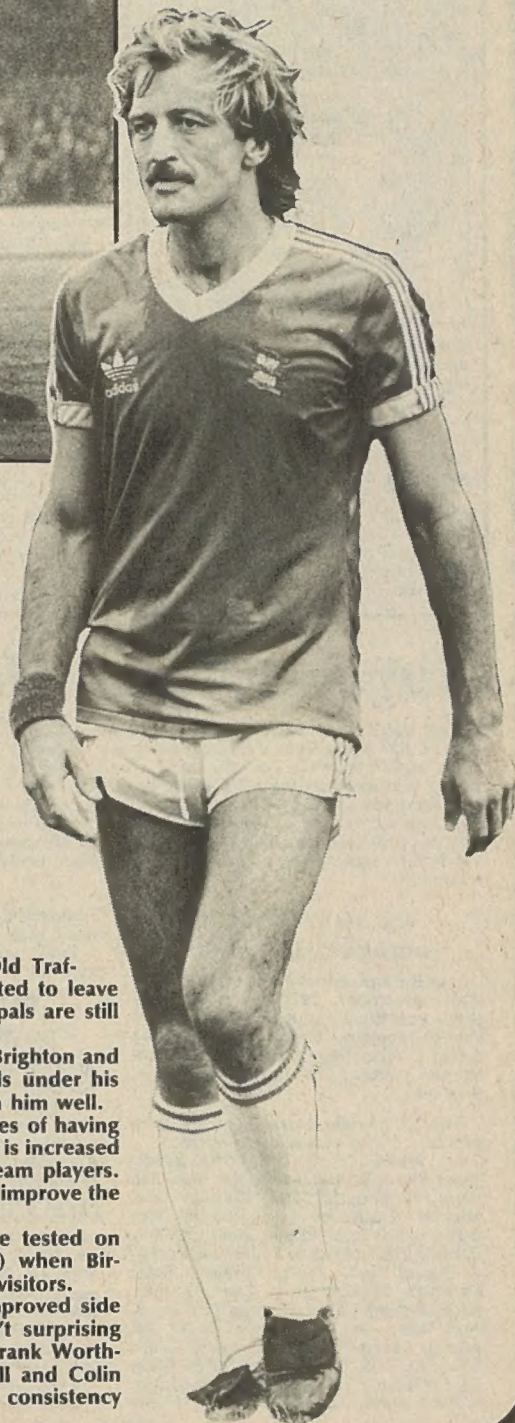


over the past ten years has been amazing.

They will rise to the occasion at the weekend and will give United a tough time, especially Worthy who is in great scoring form at the moment. I'll have to keep a special eye on him.

Cheers for now . . .

Gordon McQueen



AFTER waiting so long, my comeback for United in our F.A. Cup Third Round replay at Brighton was quite a shock.

A couple of days before the match, manager Dave Sexton told Ray Wilkins, Martin Buchan and I that he wanted us to travel with the squad.

Then a few hours before kick-off Dave said he was going to play all three of us. We were flabbergasted.

It was a big gamble on his part in a Cup-tie so vital and tricky. But it paid off with United winning 2-0. More important, none of us felt any after-effects from our injuries save for a little stiffness.

I admit I was a bit concerned before the game because of lack of match fitness. Like Ray and Martin, I'd only had a couple of reserve outings and they are nothing like the real thing.

Ray was pulled off at the Goldstone because of exhaustion. Not surprising considering the length of time he's been out of action.

I wasn't so bad, but then it's easier for a defender than a midfielder to make a comeback. The physical pressures aren't so demanding.

A few days after victory at the Goldstone, United played Brighton in the League at Old Trafford — and I scored my first goal of the season.

Mickey Thomas took a free-kick, Brighton's 'keeper Graham Moseley dropped the ball, Joe Jordan blasted

it across the goal and I ran in to head home.

Former United favourite Andy Ritchie scored for Brighton in the second-half before Lou Macari got our match-winner.

Not only had I scored, but United had recorded their first home win of 1981. I wish it had been against somebody else, though.

In 14 games United had only beaten one team — Brighton. And we'd done that three times!

Afterwards Andy Ritchie claimed Old Trafford no longer held the same fears for visiting teams as it did when he was a youngster there.

He said United aren't so tenacious. We've lost our cutting edge, let teams off the hook, don't beat them by three or four goals.

If Andy's talking about this season he's got a point. Up to that Brighton game, United had drawn 11 times at home. But then Dave Sexton wasn't able to field his strongest side until the F.A. Cup replay.

Last season United only lost once at Old Trafford in the League, to Wolves.

Like Liverpool and Anfield, United and Old Trafford hold psychological fears for opponents. The atmosphere and big crowd can frighten the life out of players.

Because of this they often come to Old Trafford determined not to lose. They are more cautious, less inclined to have a go. It's very hard to play against a side with ten defen-

United (above, white shorts) under pressure from Brighton during their F.A. Cup replay. The Old Trafford side won 2-0.

Frank Worthington (right) will have to be watched when Birmingham play United on Saturday.

ders.

Andy is certainly entitled to his opinion and I don't think there was any maliciousness in his comments. He was very popular at Old Trafford, never really wanted to leave and most of his best pals are still there.

He seems happy at Brighton and already has a few goals under his belt. All at United wish him well.

One of the advantages of having injured players recover is increased competition for first team players. That situation can only improve the strength of the side.

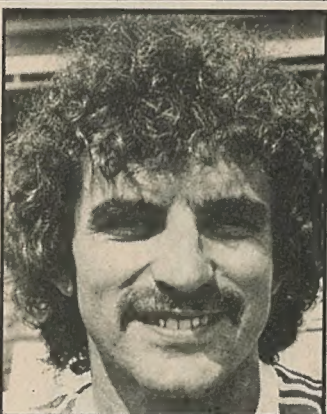
That strength will be tested on Saturday (January 31st) when Birmingham City are the visitors.

They are a much improved side this season which isn't surprising with players such as Frank Worthington, Archie Gemmill and Colin Todd around. Their consistency

Bingham checks on Dowd

HUGH DOWD's cool, classy displays for Doncaster Rovers' defence have attracted the attention of Northern Ireland team-chief Billy Bingham.

It is now six seasons since Dowd, injury-plagued for most of his five-year career at Sheffield Wednesday, last appeared for his country, in an away European Championship win over Sweden. But with supreme Bingham anxious to provide extra cover for regular Irish centre-backs Chris Nicholl and John O'Neill, the revamped Doncaster pivot could be in line for a near-future recall to the international big-time.



WHEN he scored the winner for Birmingham in their F.A. Cup replay at Sunderland it gave Tony Evans tremendous pleasure. Until then Evans had been on the sidelines.

He said: "After so long out of the spotlight it was good to get back on the goalscoring list."

"Now I only hope that I can win a regular spot in the Birmingham side because I believe that I have something to offer in a partnership that includes such players as Worthington and Bertschin."

ALAN WADDLE a credit to soccer

THE greed of players when talking terms is a frequent complaint from managers, but Newport County's Len Ashurst did not have to satisfy record £80,000 signing Alan Waddle on wages.

Waddle only wanted to know the club's ambitions.

"The lad's attitude was a credit to him," says Ashurst. "When we sat down to talk terms, he said 'I'm going to cost this club twice as much as it has ever paid before. Are you going to be able to afford anyone else?'"

"I replied 'Certainly one more player, possibly two. We are building now for a promotion drive next season.' Immediately Alan said:

'That's what I wanted to hear. I'm yours.' Then he signed.

"It was easy to see what he was driving at. He was reluctantly leaving a club, Swansea City, that was heading for the First Division. In turn, he was being chased by a club that has no prospect this season of leaving the Third. Career prospects were more important to him than anything."

There is only one drawback for the towering ex-Liverpool, Leicester and Swansea striker, he signed two weeks too late for County's European Cup-Winners' Cup Quarter-Final in March. "I'll save my goals for the Semi-Final," he has promised his new team-mates.



REMEMBER Jack Whitham? He was a regular scorer for Sheffield Wednesday in the late 60's. In one game against Manchester United he scored four goals in a 5-4 win against a side which included George Best, Denis Law and Bobby Charlton.

His distinguished career took him to Liverpool, under Bill Shankly, and then on to Crewe and Reading. Well, these days Jack can be found playing for the second oldest football club in the world — Hallam FC in the Yorkshire League.

A RIGHT CHARLIE

LEO CUSENZA, a 17-year-old full-back with Colchester, is a right Charlie.

The Enfield-born youngster explains: "My real christian name is Calogero, which translated from Italian means Charlie. But I have been known all my life as Leo."

As a youth player, Cusenza appeared for both Enfield and Middlesex. He first went to Colchester as a schoolboy in September, 1979, and last August played for Colchester in the League Cup.

NEWS DESK

Compiled by
BILL DAY



Seven-up Bond

JOHN BOND of Manchester City has been named Bell's Scotch Whisky Football Manager of the Month for the second month running.

Bond, whose seventh Bell's award this is, receives a gallon bottle of Scotch and a cheque for £250.

This is the 444th Bell's award made since the Perth company initiated their awards in 1969.

Norman Hunter, of Barnsley, also wins a second consecutive Bell's award as Division Three Manager of the Month after less than four months with the club.

David Pleat, of Luton, gets his first award and Dario Gradi, Wimbledon, is the Division Four winner.

Super referee Hackett

PETER THOMPSON from Sheffield writes to us about referee Keith Hackett thus: "Keith refereed the Aston Villa v Birmingham game on the 13th December, 1980 and received praise on 'Match of the Day' for the way he handled the game."

"The next day after the Villa match he refereed a charity match between Sheffield All-Stars team and a Sheffield Police XI in atrocious conditions in front of a small crowd. He could have asked to have been excused from both matches because his father had just died, but it is to his extreme credit that he carried out his engagements . . ."

● Referees are taking a bashing, so I'm pleased to run this letter. Pro referee stories welcome.

SHOOT/BRAUN competition result

IN our Braun competition in issue dated 29th November, 1980 we asked you three questions about a pictured 'close shave' incident. The correct answers were: 1 — Nottingham Forest and Manchester United; 2 — Ian Wallace; 3 — England.

The 25 neatest correct entries, with age taken into account, came from: Jamil Ahmad, Cardiff. Lee Akram, Birmingham. Simon Barham, Cambridge. Mike Baringer, Southampton. James Chapman, Deal. Michael Eastwood, Loughborough. Wyn Evans, Dyfed. Susan Gibson, Stockport. Mark Hassall, Birmingham. G. P. Jenkins, Henley-on-Thames. Ruth Jones, Coventry. Conal Kavanagh, Wicklow Town. Steven Keegan, Middlesbrough. Stephen Leonard, Gwent. John Lynch, Co. Cork. Martin McKee, Co. Armagh. Darin Morse, St Austell. John O'Reegan, Cork City. Richard Parker, Otley. Duncan Russell, Whitby. Trevor Taylor, Luton. Richard Vines, Melton Mowbray. Martin

Wainwright, Liverpool. Ulan Whiston jnr, Anglesey. Nigel Wild, Sheffield.
Each wins a Braun Synchron S shaver.

SHOOT/ADIDAS competition results

ALSO in the 29th November, 1980 issue we ran an Adidas competition in which we asked you three questions about clubs who wear Adidas kit. The correct answers were: 1 — Alex Ferguson; 2 — Alan Devonshire; 3 — Yes, it is true that Middlesbrough have never won the F.A. Cup. The 12 correct entries judged to be the neatest, with age taken into consideration, came from:

Neil Brown, Malmesbury. John Bryce, Aberdeen. Ian Davies, Gwynedd. Michael Eastwood, Loughborough. Brian Flett, Aberdeen. Simon Franklyn, London E7. Russ-Furrie, Wirral. Jack Geddes, Glasgow. Brendan O'Toole, Belfast. Duncan Potter, Ringwood. Johnathan Smale, Halstead. Andrew Williams, Tyabon.

Each wins Adidas Replica Soccer kit in the team colours of his choice.

● Martin O'Neill and Gerry Armstrong are Northern Ireland's current leading marksman, with five international goals apiece.

LUCKY TO BE ALIVE

THERE is no doubting the identity of the club five-year-old David Linford worships. What was in doubt was whether the schoolboy from Canning Town, East London could continue his support of West Ham.

David survived a terrifying ordeal at the hands of soccer hooligans. His skull was crushed when a set of pram wheels were hurled at him.

For weeks he lay paralysed in hospital — and then came a breakthrough. Nurses heard him singing The Hammers' theme tune "Bubbles".

His progress was remarkable and recently he was invited to attend a West Ham training session where he met his hero, David Cross.

The West Ham striker has made such an impression on David that he named his teddy bear after Cross.



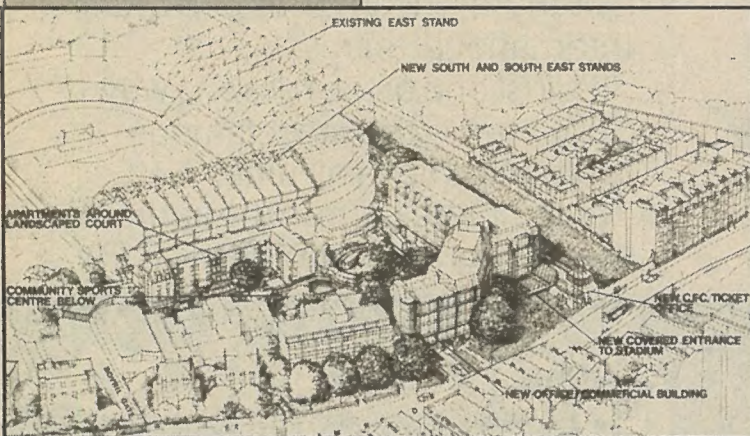
Bill Bothwell dies

B.B.C. radio soccer commentator, Bill Bothwell, died in early January at the age of 68.

Bill, a director of Tranmere for 26 years, 12 as chairman, made his last radio broadcast on Saturday, 3rd January.

I, for one, loved listening to Bill's resonant voice. So distinctive, so good for radio soccer commentaries. He will be greatly missed by his many admirers all over the country.

● A futuristic aerial drawing of the proposed development of Chelsea's Stamford Bridge ground. It is estimated that the re-development will cost £14 million. The scheme includes a new 12,000 seater stand to replace the popular "Shed", which will be moved to another part of the ground. Chelsea are hoping to attract a developer to finance the scheme.



COVENTRY newcomer Danny Thomas has been forgiven for being sent-off in an F.A. Cup tie against Leeds United.

Manager Gordon Milne, who supported the abolition of red cards, said: "We were desperately upset. I thought he was unlucky."

"I was told that the second booking which resulted in the player being sent-off was for obstruction."

"I would have thought that the referee could easily have spoken to the player without taking action."

Briefly...

● Alan Birch is hitting the high spots with Chesterfield these days but he has a younger brother, Paul, who is beginning to catch the eye playing with Aston Villa. He lives in the West Bromwich area, but he has always followed the fortunes of Chelsea.

Now his ambition is to get into Villa's League side, but first of all he has to overcome a back injury which has troubled him in recent weeks.

● Striker John Thomas, given a free transfer by

Everton, has had his career rescued by a former Goodison Park team-mate. Brian Kidd, who moved from Everton to Bolton last May, recommended Thomas to the club and they duly signed him. Thomas joined Everton in July, 1979, and had loan periods at Tranmere and Halifax before moving to Burnden Park.

● Stoke City, Newcastle United and Norwich City have been running the rule over talented Dunfermline Athletic striker Sandy McNaughton. The former Stenhousemuir player recently turned down a £30,000 move to Partick Thistle and was also linked

with Hearts.

● Jimmy Bolton, an 18-year-old striker who turned professional with Spurs last July, has no greater fan than his father. Dad played for his firm's team until he was 38.

Young Jim, who won schoolboy honours with England, had training spells with both Crystal Palace and Chelsea. He first joined Spurs as a 13-year-old schoolboy.

● Ex-Celtic striker Ronnie Glavin, now turning out for Third Division Barnsley, notched up the 100th goal of his career recently when scoring twice in a 3-0 home victory over Walsall.

'I've proved 'em wrong' says Everton star

MRE Varadi, rapidly underlining his First Division potential in the Everton strike force, was written off as a no-hoper by Isthmian League, Second Division Letchworth two seasons ago.

They let him go for just £500 to Sheffield United and boss Maurice Howkins, now at Hitchin Town, thought so little of Varadi that in his three years with the club he never offered him a contract.

Even today he is dubious about 21-year-old Varadi's ability to stay in the top flight. He explained: "I'd like to see what he's doing in a couple of seasons, because frankly I'm surprised he's made it this far."

Varadi, son of a Hungarian immigrant, is currently filling in for the injured Bob Latchford, and scoring goals into the bargain. Yet Howkins was so openly unimpressed by the diminutive striker that after scoring a hat-trick for Letchworth one week, he was dropped for the very next match.

Everton boss Gordon Lee has been more willing to let Varadi prove himself.

"He's been adding a new dimension to the side in recent games," he said. "And I'm going to give him an extended run in the side, while Latchford's out."

Varadi himself has bitter memories of his days at Letchworth. "I owe them absolutely nothing," he says.

Mutrie's big chance

LES MUTRIE thought his chances of League football had disappeared when Carlisle gave him a free transfer.

But three fine performances for famous Cup-fighters Blyth Spartans have pushed him back into the Third Division limelight with Hull City.

It took Hull three games to dispose of Blyth in the Second Round of the F.A. Cup, with Mutrie missing a vital penalty near the end of the first replay.

But the striker still did enough to impress Hull boss Mike Smith, who snapped him up for £30,000 only minutes after they finally beat Blyth.

"I had a lot of bad luck with injuries at Carlisle and I'm grateful for another chance," said 27-year-old Mutrie.

FOURTH DIVISION MIRACLE

I HAVE goods news for Hereford, Halifax and company, lodged at the foot of the Fourth Division and facing re-election.

Do you realise that six years ago promotion chasing Swansea had to rely on the other League clubs to keep them in the Football League? And have you noticed how Rochdale, saved by the skin of their teeth last season, are challenging for promotion to Division Three?

Swansea chairman Malcolm Struel says: "I asked for us to be re-elected because I believed we had the potential to reach Division One. What they weren't aware of was that we had young players such as Alan Curtis, Robbie James and Jeremy Charles coming through."

IT is a frustrating time for West Brom's David Mills.

The former Middlesbrough striker can't establish himself in the first team at The Hawthorns, yet he believes he is playing as well as at any time since his £480,000 transfer.

Up to the halfway stage of the season, Mills had played just two full games, although he spent plenty of time on the substitute's bench.

"I'm happy with my form and it's just a question of being patient and grabbing my chance when somebody is injured or loses form," he said.

Under the inspired leadership of manager John Toshack, Swansea have climbed from Division Four to challenge for promotion to Division One.

Rochdale were even luckier. At the annual meeting of the Football League they kept their place (instead of Altrincham) because one club forgot to vote, while the Luton representative was stuck in London traffic.

Manager Bob Stokoe resigned and the job was handed to Peter Madden. When Stokoe left he said: "If Peter keeps them out of the bottom four next season it'll be a miracle."

Looks like there's a miracle happening in Division Four...

THE END

VETERAN midfielder John McPolin's mid-term departure from Crusaders to "B" Division Carrick Rangers means things won't be quite the same anymore down Seaview way.

Big John, one of Northern Ireland's most-respected players, spent his entire, 15-year senior career with Crusaders, during which he collected, among other domestic awards, two Irish F.A. Cup and two Irish League Championship-winning medals. What's more, he also had the unique distinction of appearing in all five of Crues' Euro campaigns, spanning 13 years.

For one-club man McPolin, Crusaders, and senior soccer in Northern Ireland, the perennial Seaview idol's move to juniors Carrick really is the end of an era.

INS AND OUTS

Transfers during November

Armstrong, Gerard J. — Tottenham Hotspur to Watford
Boyer, Philip J. — Southampton to Manchester City
Campbell, Alan J. — Cardiff City to Carlisle United
Cassells, Keith B. — Watford to Oxford United
Donnellan, Gary — Chelsea to Watford
Entwistle, Wayne P. — Leeds United to Blackpool
Geddes, Andrew — Leicester City to Dundee
Haigh, Paul — Hull City to Carlisle United
Hamill, Alexander — Tottenham Hotspur to Heart of Midlothian
Heath, Duncan N. — Aston Villa to Crewe Alexandra
Horn, Robert I. — Crystal Palace to Barnsley
Loway, John A. — Sheffield Wednesday to Blackburn Rovers
Palmer, Roger N. — Manchester City to Oldham Athletic
Rice, Patrick J. — Arsenal to Watford
Stainrod, Simon A. — Oldham Athletic to Queens Park Rangers
Taylor, Leslie — Oxford United to Watford
Taylor, Peter J. — Tottenham Hotspur to Orient
Urquhart, William M. — Rangers to Wigan Athletic
Watson, David — Liverpool to Norwich City

Temporary transfers

Cherry, Steven R. — Derby County to Port Vale

Registrations cancelled

DIVISION ONE

Arsenal: Dunstan, Paul M.
Aston Villa: Jenkins, Lee R.
Birmingham City: Sadd, Trevor
Everton: Duke, Neil A.; Towey, Paul G. S.
Leeds United: Beer, Andrew J.
Liverpool: Green, Karl A.; Williams, James T.
Norwich City: Pocock, Sean J.
Southampton: Poole, David J.
Stoke City: Pearce, Gary L.
Tottenham Hotspur: Tongue, Keith A.; Walker, Jason M.
Wolverhampton Wanderers: Black, John; Fleming, Christopher J.

DIVISION TWO

Bristol City: Dyer, Raymond
Bristol Rovers: Aitken, Peter G.
Luton Town: Woodward, John G.
Swansea City: Rees, David A.

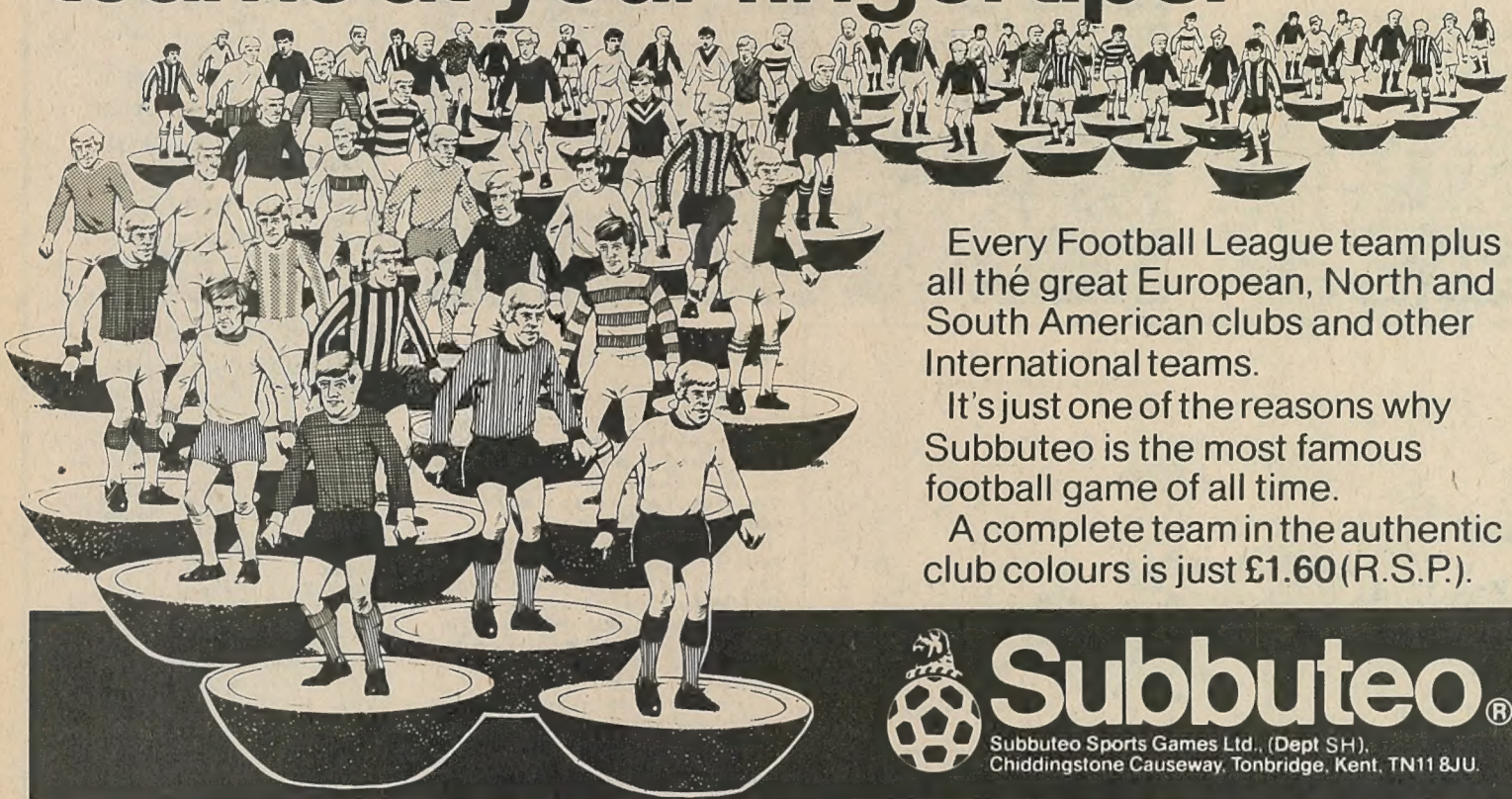
DIVISION THREE

Barnsley: McAdam, Steven; Wooffindin, Dale
Brentford: Gray, Andrew
Burnley: Howarth, Wayne
Gillingham: Wakelin, Nigel
Newport County: Armstrong, Keith
Swindon Town: Templeman, John H.; Trollope, Norman J.

DIVISION FOUR

Bury: Trainer, John
Crewe Alexandra: Mountford, Robert W.
Darlington: Ellis, Kenneth
Doncaster Rovers: Bates, Michael J.
Hereford United: Morris, Paul W.
Lincoln City: Travis, Ian R.
Northampton Town: Sargent, Gary
Peterborough United: Heppollette, Richard A. W.; Lambert, Michael A.
Tranmere Rovers: Crawford, Derek B.; Cromby, Mark; Doyle, Stephen; Gibilru, Joseph; Haddock, Robert; Harper, Gary; Jones, Griffith T.; McDonough, Terance V.; Martin, David J.; Metcalf, Danny; Middleton, Royston J.; Mooney, Lee W.; Napier, Paul W.; Quinn, Mark F.; Scott, John A.; Stevenson, Gary A.; Whitcomb, David J.; Williams, Garry R.

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CLUB SPOTLIGHT

IF Wrexham fail to make an impact in League and Cup this season it will not be for lack of effort.

They are desperate for success, if only to bring some happiness to an area of North Wales that is acutely depressed at the moment.

For unemployment in the region is running at almost 20 per cent and the club are fully aware of their responsibilities in bringing some light into people's hearts on Saturday afternoons when for most of the week they have had to shoulder the burden of drawing the dole.

But if fans are depressed it is difficult for a club to muster the enthusiasm necessary to win titles. Certainly, Wrexham's average home gate of 7,000 in the first half of the season reflects the apathy existing in the region at the moment.

As player-assistant manager Mel Sutton said: "Our away record has been fine this season but we've rarely produced the goods at home. Whether it has anything to do with home attendances is difficult to assess.

"We are very concerned for the

Division.

Mel Sutton believes that had they had the support from midfield that their goal-poaching talents merit, Wrexham would be closer to the League leaders.

"One of our weaknesses has been our inability to score goals from midfield. Remedy that problem and we will play a lot better," he says.

Edwards has brought much needed goal-power to Wrexham — and a welcome partner for the tried and trusted McNeil, whose presence is worshipped at Wrexham and whose form has suffered through lack of support.

This season he has been well below his best, yet has still managed to bag his quota of goals, including the Cup-tie winner against West Ham. McNeil has been one of the League's most prolific goalscorers.

His career started at Leicester City where he played at junior level before moving to Exeter City. He netted 11 goals for The Grecians in 31 appearances before dropping



Manager Arfon Griffiths.

into non-League football with Corby.

Northampton brought him back into the limelight and he wound-up at Wrexham in September, 1977 via Lincoln and Hereford.

Wrexham's "Player of the Year" in 1979-80 with 19 League and Cup goals in the safe, McNeil remains a

major threat to defences despite a slight loss of power in the air, but urgently needs more support.

Gareth Davies has been in particularly inspiring form after more than 400 appearances for the club since leaving school. Four Under-23 caps were followed by full honours for Wales — and his late equaliser in Wrexham's 1-1 F.A. Cup Third Round draw against West Ham at Upton Park was typical of the contribution he has made to the club's cause.

Wrexham's progress was handicapped by serious injuries to Terry Darracott, their powerful defender from Everton, and Steve Dowman, signed at the start of the season from Colchester.

But progress in football is a slow process even for the more ambitious clubs and Wrexham have had their share of success since Arfon Griffiths succeeded John Neal as manager in July, 1977.

In his first season he led the team to the Third Division Championship — and they also won the Welsh Cup, for which he was voted the Third Division Manager of the season for 1977-78.

Now aged 38, he was awarded the M.B.E. for services to football, a just reward for a man who was born in Wrexham and played a total of 592 League games for the club before finally calling it a day two years ago.

If anyone knows how to get Wrexham into the big time, it is Arfon, capped 17 times by Wales in a distinguished career.

Wrexham cheer the dole queue

HONOURS

Third Division Champions: 1977-78. Third Division (North) Runners-up: 1932-33. Fourth Division Runners-up: 1969-70. Welsh Cup winners: 21 times.

Last season's record: Second Division: 16th. F.A. Cup: Fifth Round. League Cup: Second Round. European Cup-Winners' Cup: First Round. Club shop situated on Kopside of the ground.

working population in this area and are doing our bit for them, even though it is not much."

Mel refers to a scheme launched by Wrexham this season whereby unemployed soccer fans are invited to play five-a-side at the Racecourse Ground every Thursday afternoon.

"Thirty or 40 come along, which encourages us and gives them something to do."

Powerful

Mel Sutton, who combines management as Arfon Griffiths' trusted assistant with a powerful midfield role in the first team, claims that Wrexham are as good as most of the Second Division clubs with the notable exceptions of West Ham, "an outstanding team," and Notts County.

Ironically, it was Wrexham who accounted for F.A. Cup holders West Ham in this season's Third Round.

Many Second Division teams are apprehensive about their visits to the Racecourse Ground which results in defensive games, Mel maintains.

However, veteran striker Dixie McNeil and Ian Edwards, signed from Chester for £125,000 in November, 1979, have formed a goalscoring partnership which tests most defences in the Second



Ian Edwards (white shirt) goes close in Wrexham's F.A. Cup Third Round draw at West Ham earlier this month.

WREXHAM



BACK ROW (left to right): Craig Fleming, Steve Fox, Alan Hill, Steve Dowman, Joey Jones, Alan Dwyer.
MIDDLE ROW: Norman Wilson (secretary), Mick Vinter, Frank Carrodus, Ian Edwards, John

Roberts, Steve Kenworthy, Dai Davies, Eddie Niedzwiecki, Wayne Cegielski, Terry Darracott, Dixie McNeil, Les Cartwright.
FRONT ROW: Gareth Davis, Ian Arkwright, Mickey Evans (youth coach), Ken Roberts (chief

scout), Arfon Griffiths (manager), Mel Sutton (assistant-manager), George Showell (physio), Graham Whittle, Steve Buxton.

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WHILE clubs like Liverpool, Ipswich and Aston Villa are fighting for the Championship, there are around half-a-dozen other clubs locked together in an even fiercer battle with no prize at stake!

Only survival in the First Division!

I am, of course, referring to those clubs at the wrong end of the League table involved in the struggle to avoid one of the three relegation slots at the end of the season.

Thankfully it's something I've been spared in my career with Liverpool.

But I've known what it's like to have the threat of demotion hanging over me like a Sword of Damocles, during my only full season with Scunthorpe United. We



Jim Melrose (light shorts) of Leicester beats Liverpool's Terry McDermott to the ball.

'A battle with no prize'

seemed to get beaten in every away game, and it was only a string of home wins on the "finishing straight" that saved us from dropping from the Third into the Fourth.

The prospect was not as alarming as that facing the present day clubs fighting to maintain their First Division status. In an age where balancing the books has become more important than ever before, slipping into the Second Division with a large squad on First Division wages must give secretaries nightmares.

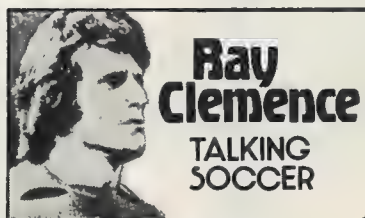
They are faced with the problem of carrying the same costs in a Division where gates, and revenue, are far lower.

And getting back out of the Second, as Chelsea and West Ham can testify, is one of the hardest hills to climb in our football.

One team that succeeded in recent years is right now faced with the possibility of falling back where they came from: Crystal Palace, a club dubbed "The Team of the 80's" in the Press last season and which I predicted as being candidates for European qualification this time and Championship outsiders.

When I made that prediction I hadn't done my homework on Palace, as I was reminded in a TV feature on the club recently. A fan pointed out the contrast between their performances in the first and second halves of last season: in the first they had actually led the table at one stage; whereas in the second they had struggled badly.

Manager Terry Venables' decision to quit Palace for Q.P.R. ranks as



Ray Clemence
TALKING SOCCER

one of this season's biggest surprises, for I've always regarded him as one of the best coaches in the business, particularly of youngsters.

Only time will tell whether Malcolm Allison's return to Selhurst Park is a good or bad thing. Time is against him getting the players to adapt to his style of play. On the other hand, he could be the man to guide them back into the First if they do go down.

Another relegation-threatened club which has suffered managerial problems is Norwich City, whose former long-serving boss John Bond replaced Malcolm at Manchester City.

Mr. Bond did wonders keeping the Carrow Road club in the First for so many seasons, but he may have inadvertently damaged the morale of the players by declaring that he'd reached his limit there and couldn't achieve any more.

Now his successor and former number two, Ken Brown, has the unenviable task of fighting relegation without the money to buy top quality players and with the threat of losing Justin Fashanu, a deadly striker already attracting the atten-

tion of the richer, more successful clubs.

As I said in a recent column, I wouldn't like Norwich to be relegated, partly because my best friend Dougie Livermore is coaching the reserves, but mainly because I enjoy visiting a comparatively small club with such progressive ideas.

In many ways Brighton are like Norwich: off the beaten soccer track, with little tradition, and holding an insecure position in the First.

However, signs are that manager Alan Mullery is all set to perform another Houdini act and steer them into a safe mid-table spot.

Jekyll and Hyde

Their good, points-gathering spell at Christmas and the New Year was followed by a k.o. in the Third Round of the F.A. Cup by Manchester United, which could turn out to be beneficial as it allows them to concentrate entirely on the League with no distractions.

Although Brighton always impress going forward, they appear open to the counter thrust at their goal.

Leeds United are a far different proposition from the club that under Don Revie were Liverpool's biggest rivals in the late 60's and early 70's. Then their line-up contained so much talent and they were amongst the best-supported sides in the land.

Much as I admired their manager, Allan Clarke, as a Leeds player, I think he's on the wrong track following an ultra-defensive policy.

Leeds came to Anfield and stole a point in a boring, goal-less draw.

It's obvious that unless clubs provide entertaining football, gates will continue to decline, and Leeds should adopt a more adventurous policy for this reason alone.

Instead of thinking about making a comeback at the relatively old age of 34, Allan would be better employed imparting his goalscoring secrets to his players.

Wolves remind me of Jekyll and Hyde. Last season they looked so promising: splashing out a then massive £1¼m for Andy Gray, who went on to repay some of it by scoring the winning goal in the League Cup Final against Nottingham Forest, and so qualify for Europe.

'Leicester handed us our first League defeat — but look like being relegated'

This season they crashed out of the U.E.F.A. Cup at the first hurdle, were swiftly removed from their defence of the League Cup, but managed to partly redeem themselves by beating Stoke in the F.A. Cup Third Round.

Of course, they did inflict on us our biggest defeat of the season, 4-1 at Molineux in the League, but that was a freak result.

It's a puzzle to me how a side made up of virtually the same players as last season can be so lacklustre this time around.

Sunderland, the best of the promoted sides, have been plagued by differences between their manager and chairman, but are in the fortunate position of having a superior goal-difference to other lowly-placed clubs.

Leicester City, who came up as Champions, failed to get off to the good start such a young side needed to ensure their place, despite handing us our first League defeat of the season by 2-0 at Filbert Street.

We'll have no mercy on them at Anfield this Saturday, when we'll be out to put as many goals past 'keeper Mark Wallington as possible.

The win we need to sustain our bid to retain the title will also mean driving another nail into Leicester's coffin.

Looking into my crystal ball, I see Leicester, Palace and Norwich as the most likely clubs to be missing from the top 22 next season.

But I'm sure they'll each take heart from the knowledge that I'm the World's worst tipster!

Ray Clemence

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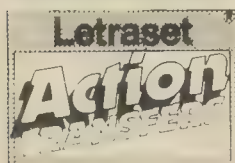
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Kevin Keegan

LOOK OUT FOR



FANS PICKED ALDERSHOT'S TEAM!

ALDERSHOT'S narrow failure to gain promotion to the Third Division on three of the past four occasions has convinced many people that they are frightened to chance their arm at the higher level.

But manager Tom McAearney is quick to deny any such suggestions.



Tom McAearney

"I want to be a Third Division manager just as much as my directors and players want to be in higher company," insists McAearney. "I can't see any reason why we shouldn't hold our own in the Third, and I'd like to think that if we do make it, we'll do well."

McAearney attributes Aldershot's final position of tenth last season to losing centre-half Joe Jopling for about four months due to a hernia and the way in which they fell away after suffering a run of defeats at the end of the season.

"The previous years I thought we'd make it, especially when Swansea pipped us for promotion after what I considered were some very bad decisions by the referee when we played them. I'm sure the current team is better than the one which was promoted eight years ago," McAearney commented, "but it doesn't seem to have the same hunger for success."

While McAearney is more than satisfied with the efforts of Glen Johnson, Alan Wooler, Joe Jopling and Paul Bennett in defence, the apparent lack of ambition is highlighted by Aldershot's inability to score goals in the early part of the season.

The loss of free scoring John Dungworth to Shrewsbury was felt all the more acutely when his replacement, Colin Garwood, who

scored ten goals in four matches after moving from neighbouring Portsmouth at the end of last season, suffered an early goal famine this season.

"Colin's been playing well, but it's our bad luck that for the first time in his career he seems to be going through a bad patch in front of goal. Of course, our lack of goals worries me, but young Mark Sanford has hit form recently and that has come as a welcome bonus."

"The trouble is," McAearney explained, "that Third and Fourth Division clubs have to make their own strikers from the lower levels, and we're not helped by the fact that besides not getting much support, most of the local kids tend to go to clubs like Southampton, Portsmouth and Chelsea."

"Even so, I think there's more opportunity for kids to make their name with a Fourth Division club, because if they've got the ability it'll come out and they'll climb the ladder quickly like Keegan, Clemence and Banks did," McAearney added.

Looking at this season's Fourth Division, McAearney describes it as "highly competitive."

"By that I don't mean it's just down to a few clubs like Lincoln and Southend. At the end of last year there were only five points separating 11 clubs, so it's going to be very tight. From what I've seen I think our likely rivals will be Hartlepool, Mansfield and Wimbledon."

Criticism

McAearney — now in his second term as Aldershot's manager — has been the only person to guide them into the Third Division, where they stayed for three years before being relegated. He still finds that a 24-hour day is insufficient, but maintains his great belief in making himself available to answer any criticism from the fans.

"I had three of them in the other day criticising team selection, and yet when I asked them to write down 11 names they produced three different combinations. I think it's important to hear what they have to say — particularly as a Fourth Division manager — as they have very little idea of the sort of problems which have to be faced," McAearney reflected.

"Obviously promotion is a bit easier now, especially as there is an extra place available, although success still depends on the level of the club."

"Although we exist on a shoe-string budget we're not in the position of having to sell to survive, and our experienced squad with two promising youngsters in Mark Sanford and Brian Lucas ought to silence people who say we merely want to jog along at the top of the Fourth Division."

"I think we can finally make it to Division Three this time, but we all know it will be a rough battle to get there."

FIVE goals in two games over Christmas helped Brian Stein to make the headlines and pushed Luton Town firmly into the Second Division promotion race.

"I know we have left our challenge late, but if we can manage to put a winning streak together, then I think we can just about pull it off," says the South African-born striker.

"We've played all the teams and West Ham and Luton should be walking the Second Division."

"Last year all the managers were tipping us for promotion this time round. But we had a bad run over the first 21 games and, to be honest, there doesn't seem to be any logical reason for it."

"We thought we'd overcome our indifferent spell when we beat West Ham and Watford, then we lost 1-0 at Cardiff. That defeat came as a bitter blow, because we outplayed them in every department."

Stein, 23, adds: "We're very entertainment conscious at Kenilworth Road. The manager and players prefer to win by 4-3 than 1-0."

"We're happy to keep a clean

sheet in defence, but once we score one goal, we want to get two, then three and to surge on from there."

"But we've always been like that. I think it's because we're still quite a young and exuberant side. The average age is around 22 and there's plenty of skill."

"We may have a lot to learn, but we won't really know until we've actually tasted First Division action."

Established

Stein, who arrived at Kenilworth Road from non-League Edgware midway through the 1977-78 season, feels that he has now established himself in Luton's first team and gives 12 good reasons why his club could move into the First Division.

"Jake Findlay in goal is tremendous," he says, "and Kirk Stephens at right-back is a winner. He's reaching his peak now and he should be in line for some sort of international recognition."

"Mark Aizlewood is an Under-21 cap. He is a left-back, but he's playing in midfield now to give the side a bit more push and power."

"Mal Donaghy is one of a trio of full internationals. He wears the number three shirt, but he can play anywhere."

"Paddy Grealish plays for the Republic of Ireland and, when he

came from Orient last season, he made the difference between Luton being a mediocre side and one bidding for promotion."

"Mike Saxby and Paul Price are the two central defenders. Paul organises the defence and his game has come on in leaps and bounds since being capped by Wales."

"Mike is our ball winner at the back. He's only young but he's a marvellous prospect."

"Then there's Ricky Hill. He's having a great season. He's very underrated and I can't understand why he isn't in the England Under-21 side."

"Up front we have David Moss, Steve White and myself. David was brilliant last season."

"Steve White has improved 100 per cent, and we're starting to develop an understanding together. It's a dual partnership. At Luton we don't have a target man and the front runners have the licence to wander."

"Hopefully, it's the right mixture for promotion."

Sizing up Hatters



Luton striker Brian Stein believes his side are still capable of gaining promotion to the First Division.

'PSYCHO' HAS THE KILLER TOUCH

THEY call him "Psycho", and most Second Division defenders feel psychopathic towards him after his killer finishing has sent them away empty-handed.

Psycho is David Cross — currently enjoying the best season of a career that began 12 years ago.

That's the name the West Ham North Bank have hung on the gangling striker, who spearheaded Hammers assault for honours on four fronts by blasting 22 goals before Christmas.

That's four more than his previous best for a whole season. No wonder Cross is now enjoying his football more than ever before.

At the age of 30 he should be turning his thoughts to what he will do when his playing days are over.

But that is the last thing on his mind at the moment. The way things are going for him, he will play on for a few years yet.

West Ham are finally getting some reward for the enterprising football they have played over the years.

They followed last season's F.A. Cup triumph over Arsenal at Wembley by reaching the Semi-Finals of the League Cup, Quarter-Finals of the European Cup-Winners' Cup and racing to a clear lead at the top of the Second Division.

David's goals made much of this possible, and he looks forward to a lot more success with West Ham — a club he was reluctant to join when they moved in for him three years ago.

'Settle'

"I had nothing against the club — nothing at all," he is quick to point out. "It's simply that I am a Lancashire lad and did not think I would be able to settle in London."

"Those fears have proved completely groundless. I love every minute of it down here."

That contentment in his private life is reflected on the field as Psycho rattled up the goals at an unprecedented rate.

Ask him the secret about his phenomenal finishing this season and he will tell you his accuracy has improved.

"I don't think I have had any more chances this season than I have in previous ones. It's just that I am putting more of them away," he says.

"My accuracy has improved because of all the work we do in training. I'm sure of that."

"Manager John Lyall puts good exercises in finishing on for us. I stress finishing rather than just shooting practice."

"With shooting practice some-

one plays a ball into you and you have to run on and hit it. You don't get too many chances to do something that straightforward in a match.

"So John Lyall sets up situations you are likely to have to deal with in a real game. As a consequence my awareness of where to put the ball has improved. I'll pick my spot now — rather than just blast away as I was inclined to in the past."

Cross is going so well at an advanced stage of his career that he has never given a moment's thought to retiring.

"A lot of players start to worry when they reach 30, thinking the end is near for them. It's a mental thing — there is no reason for anyone to feel that way."

"I know that I'm fitter and stronger now than I have ever been. This could put a couple of years on to my career and I will play on as long as I can."

"I can't say how long that will be, because you never know what is just around the corner. But I will know when the time has come to call it a day. No one will have to tell me."

And does Cross — who previously played for Rochdale, Norwich, Coventry and West Bromwich Albion — intend to stay in the game when his playing days do finally come to an end?

"I honestly don't know. My views on that change every year," he says.

"Sometimes I think I would like to stay in football in some capacity. Others I am determined to make a new life away from it. We'll just have to wait and see when the time comes."

If academic qualifications count for anything he will be better equipped than most footballers if he does go for work in commerce or industry.

For before leaving school in Rochdale he collected eight GCE's — two A levels, six O's — and was all set to go to University before his local club offered him a professional contract he could not refuse.

"I don't know if those GCE's will mean anything to a prospective



West Ham boss John Lyall (left) has given Cross a greater confidence to go for goal.



Cross gets up to head the first of two goals against Grimsby at Upton Park.

employer now," says Cross. "But he might be impressed by the fact I put myself out to get them."

Off the field, Cross's great love is reading. He likes nothing better than to come home from training, flop into an armchair and read — "anything as long as it's in English."

And the man himself is an open book to West Ham's adoring fans. They see him as a big, honest character who always goes flat out to give them value for their money.

David Cross has waited a long time for a bit of success. Looks like he is lined up for plenty of it in 1981 — few deserve it more.

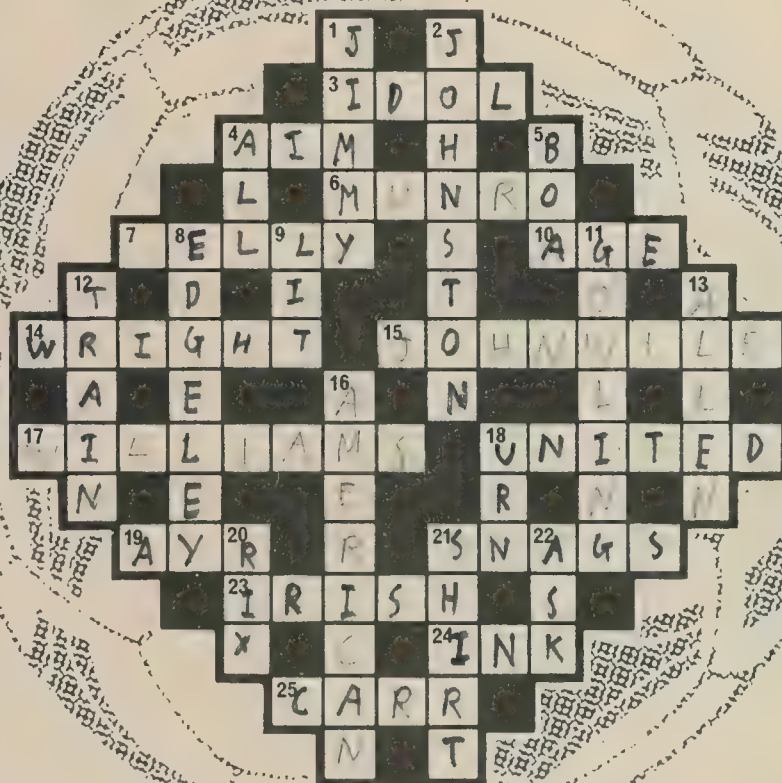
ON THE BALL CROSSWORD

ACROSS:—

- (3) Player who is the object of great admiration. (4)
(4) Direct the ball at goal. (3)
(6) Iain —; Stoke City midfielder. (5)
(7) Peter —, Newcastle United defender. (5)
(10) Malcolm P---; Birmingham defender. (3)
(14) Billy —, Everton defender. (6)
(15) West Bromwich Albion defender. (4&4)
(17) Tommy —, Leicester City defender. (8)
(18) Manchester —, play at Old Trafford. (6)
(19) — United, Scottish Division One club from Somerset Park. (3)
(21) Obstacles or drawbacks. (5)
(23) Nationality of Sammy Nelson of Arsenal, for instance. (5)
(24) Montrose play at L---s Park. (3)
(25) Willie —, Wolves midfielder player. (4)

DOWN:—

- (1) — Case, Liverpool midfielder player. (5)
(2) Craig —, Middlesbrough midfielder player. (8)
(4) WALS (---) OA. What word will finish an English club and start a Scottish one? (3)
(5) Stuart ---m, Newcastle defender. (3)
(8) — Park; ground of Stockport County. (7)
(9) Illuminated. (3)
(11) Alan —, Bolton Wanderers striker. (7)
(12) Ray —, Watford midfielder player. (5)
(13) Paul —, West Ham midfielder star. (5)
(16) New York Cosmos are such a team. (8)
(18) B---ley; Third Division side from Turf Moor. (3)
(20) Graham —, Arsenal midfielder player. (3)
(21) Part of soccer kit which often carries an advert. (5)
(22) Request. (3)



ANSWERS ON PAGE 36

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LEAGUE PROMOTION

'We're men not kids'

says Coventry's Steve Hunt

THE kids of Coventry City had been seen but not heard until this season.

But midfield ace Steve Hunt believes his club's historic League Cup Semi-Final clash with West Ham can at last bring success, and force people to forget the team's age.

He says: "Although the average age of our side is 21, none of us think in terms of how old we are. I think it's time to grow up, and our tie with West Ham can help us do that."

Hunt, a golden oldie of 24, relishes the man-size battle with the Second Division promotion favourites — not just because it can lead to a first-ever Wembley date — but because victory would help show English soccer that Coventry have long since disposed of their nappies.

He explains: "I don't think people take us seriously enough. When we win, it's because of our youthful exuberance, and when we lose it's because we are not mature enough."

"But we think of ourselves only as players. As far as we're concerned it's our team against the opposition — and the fact that we may be a lot younger than them is of no importance."

'Chasing'

"Of course at times we do show lack of experience. But our League Cup run this season has helped that. We won at Cambridge — who had knocked out the League Cup holders Wolves, and Aston Villa, who are chasing the First Division Championship."

"And we beat Watford after drawing at Vicarage Road, where they had destroyed Southampton and Nottingham Forest — the reigning European Champions. We have proved that we can live with pressure — and there are a lot of players a lot older than us who can't do that."

"What's more, when we faced Watford in the Quarter-Final replay at Highfield Road we knew that a win would put Coventry in their first-ever Cup Semi-Final. That was pressure — but we won 5-0. I think the time to call us kids is over."

Hunt himself is one of the major reasons why Coventry have that chance to reach Wembley. Six months ago he was struggling along as an average left-winger, but a switch to midfield has brought almost instant success and praise



Garry Thompson heads Coventry's third goal in the 3-0 League Cup defeat of Watford.

from all quarters.

Hunt arrived back in England 18 months ago after a two season stint with New York Cosmos — having played alongside superstars like Pele and Beckenbauer. Before that he had been allowed to leave by the club he still supports — Aston Villa.

At Villa, and in America, Hunt had only rarely played in the middle. So how come the switch was so successful?

"The only thing I can think of is the influence of the great players I have played alongside in New York. It must have rubbed off on me. But I was sure that I could do well in the middle — which is why I kept pestering Coventry manager Gordon Milne to give me a chance."

"Now, I'd never switch back to the wing — even though I am a great believer in any side having two wingers. Tommy Hutchison was one — and now over on the right we've got



Peter Bodak, who has a great future.

"In fact, I think the whole Coventry side has a great future. West Ham are going to be very difficult to beat, because they are a First Division side in everything but name. But we've really got something going for us at Highfield Road. I believe reaching Wembley is probable — not just possible."



Ex-rugby stars love soccer

A NEW sporting loyalty has broken up the most famous rugby partnership of all time. Gareth Edwards and Barry John. After appearing together for Cardiff, Wales and the British Lions, the two famous half-backs have split — between rival clubs Swansea City and Cardiff City.

"We never appeared on opposing sides on the rugby pitch, but now we would love it to happen," says Gareth, who recently signed Welsh League forms for Swansea, where manager John Toshack is a great admirer of his talent, fitness and enthusiasm.

"I am waiting to see whether Barry will turn his Cardiff support into a playing contribution. To be fair, he's not bad" — although he is getting on a bit!

In fact, both are very talented soccer players. As youngsters, they played both codes with equal

Gareth Edwards

brilliance and were the target of several League clubs. Gareth was offered terms by Swansea City and was wanted by Newcastle and Aston Villa while Barry was chased by both Coventry and Leeds.

"In fact, I could have easily gone to Coventry," Barry recalls. "I must have been the first victim of the Jimmy Hill axe when he took over as manager. My performances in the Carmarthenshire League produced the chance of a trial at Coventry but Jimmy wanted a new beginning at Highfield Road."

'Lost'

"He swept every piece of paper off his desk the day he started — and my application forms were lost forever."

"I'm a great Cardiff supporter. Goodness knows what would happen, however, if Gareth and I faced each other. The other day in a charity soccer match, we went for

the same ball, smashed into each other and I needed seven stitches.

"We were in the same team then! I remember looking up in a dazed way, seeing Gareth laughing and wondering 'Where has that telepathy gone that everyone talked about?'"

Gareth is very serious about joining The Swans. He is training with the first team professionals and is already four pounds lighter than his rugby weight.

"Having turned down The Swans all those years ago when Trevor Morris, now secretary of the F.A.W., was manager and wanted me at the Vetch Field, I'm hoping to make up lost time by playing for the second team," he says.

No souvenir is as precious to the greatest of scrum-halves than a picture of him playing at Anfield last year — an aggressive centre-forward in a Swansea team taken at Liverpool during a testimonial for Chris Lawler.

TREVOR WHYMARK

The new Master Mariner

TREVOR Whymark, that skilled, poised finisher of Ipswich and England, is back home. In the words of Grimsby manager George Kerr, he is: "Using his ten years of experience to give us that touch of class."

The arrival of the gifted Whymark, at a record £80,000, is just the boost The Mariners needed.

After their thunderous climb from Fourth Division to Second in consecutive seasons, there was a danger that manager Kerr's exuberant side would shudder to a stop. The stylish Whymark should help ensure that this does not happen.

"I haven't too much of a reputation for being a 'shouter' on the pitch but I'll have to do some now," Whymark says. "After only a couple of games I could see the problem: Grimsby's players were wanting to do everything just that little too quickly."

"They hadn't really adjusted their sights on the higher level of football. There was always the tendency to hit a first time ball rather than hold it for a second, lift their heads and see what was 'on'. I feel that is where I can make a real contribution."

"The boss wanted someone on the pitch who had a solid background of First Division experience; a player who could grab the ball and slow things down a little. Well, I hope that I can do the job he wants — and score some goals in the process!"

"Grimsby are an exciting, enthusiastic side full of running. Now it is a question of settling down into a new set of standards."

Grimsby, after an anxious start to their return to the Second Division following a 16-year

absence, had started to turn the corner just before Whymark's arrival. He quickly helped to accelerate the form and confidence.

"It was a difficult beginning," agrees George Kerr. "We had come so far so fast. Players with their heads in the clouds had to be brought back down to earth. Then we ran into problems in front of goal. Players like Kevin Drinkell, Kevin Kilmore and Bob Cumming, who had made us one of the busiest scoring sides in the country, were just missing."

"In football terms, we had come through far too fast, but the attitude within the club is very good indeed and this helped to steer us through. It wasn't a question early on of not playing well enough, especially at home, but of lacking that final touch in front of goal."

Challenge

That, in particular, is where Whymark comes in. He makes it clear that, after two years with Vancouver Whitecaps and a spell with Sparta Rotterdam, he now has exactly the challenge he wanted at this stage of his career.

"The first year with Vancouver was fine. We won all the time with players like Alan Ball and Willie Johnston. The trouble when you are winning in North American football is that you do not ask too many questions."

"To be honest, I lacked enthusiasm during the second year. I would go on to the pitch without drive or motivation. I knew that my ambition needed a new spark from playing in a higher level of football. That meant the Football League."



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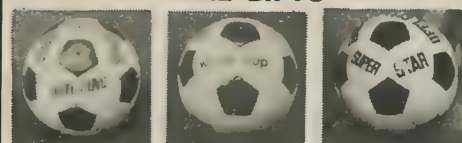
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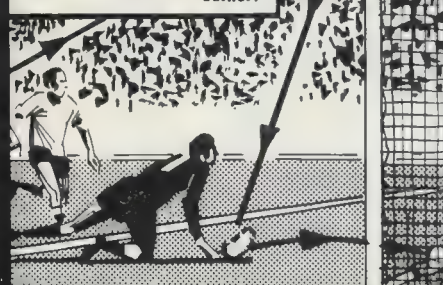
YOU ARE THE REF

Compiled by CLIVE THOMAS

1 A goalkeeper swaps shirts with a teammate, but before he completely dons the shirt he saves a shot inside the penalty-area? Should you: (a) take no action or (b) award a penalty?



3 The ball bursts when it hits the crossbar. It then drops down and is deflected into the goal by the goalkeeper. Should you: (a) award a goal, (b) drop another ball, or (c) award a corner?



4 The ball is kicked into the crowd, who refuse to throw it back. Should you: (a) restart the game with another ball, or (b) wait until the missing ball is returned?



2 Taking a throw-in, a player lets the ball fall behind him. Can you order him to retake the throw?



5 A goalkeeper is shoulder charged in the penalty arc. Should you: (a) award a direct free-kick, or (b) take no action?



ANSWERS

1. Award a penalty (b). 2. Yes. 3. Drop another ball (b). 4. Wait until the missing ball is returned (b). During Southampton's recent F.A. Cup Third Round tie against Chelsea, the visiting fans refused to return the ball with only two minutes of the game gone. Southampton manager Lawrie McMenemy realised I would not restart with another ball, and Chelsea's keeper Peter Borota congratulated me for refusing to give into the idiots. This happened four times during the course of the game, and I had to add on seven minutes. 5. Take no action (b).

FEARLESS MARTIN



FROM the opposite end of the ground Alan Rough watched carefully as the rival goalkeeper faced up to the Partick Thistle forwards.

Rough, realising that this youngster may well put pressure on him for his international place in the future, applauded warmly as the 'keeper pulled off save after save.

The man who was defying Thistle that wintry afternoon was first season senior John Martin, of Airdrie. He eventually had to admit defeat when Donald Park hit a low drive past him for the only goal of the game in the second minute of injury time, but although he was a loser on that occasion Rough reckons that the former Scottish Junior international 'keeper will eventually become one of soccer's winners.

"He played exceptionally well against us," says Rough. "He handles the ball well and likes to let everyone know he is the boss of the penalty-area."

"John Martin has matured beyond his years and has a lot of natural ability as well as being swift off his line and utterly fearless."

"It might not be a bad thing that he gets so much to do while keeping goal for Airdrie."

"He is kept busy for most of the game, and this helps him keep his eye in. But it's easy to be impressed by his confidence and overall ability."

"The main thing about the boy is that he is positive in everything he does. If he comes for a high ball there is no hesitating. He is determined to get it. I like his style."

Rough isn't alone in his admiration of Martin's splendid goalkeeping. Liverpool have had him watched in recent months and have let it be known that they are impressed by the young Scot who cost Airdrie only a couple of hundred pounds from junior football during the pre-season.

Broomfield manager Bobby Watson says: "John is coming along fine and remains unaffected by all the praise that comes his way. And that's the way I like it."

"He is a thorough professional and wants to learn all the time. He might be a part timer, but he is a full timer so far as dedication to the game goes."

Strange

Martin combines his football with that of a coal miner, and he can be happy in the knowledge that this strange combination didn't prevent former Rangers goalkeeper Stewart Kennedy from going on to win full international caps for Scotland.

In fact, Martin is a self-confessed former Rangers fan and was an admirer of Kennedy.

"I remember I admitted my feelings about Rangers to a newspaper on the day we were due to play Celtic at Broomfield," says Martin.

"The Parkhead boys must have taken it to heart... they stuck four past me that afternoon. That's one lesson learned the hard way!"

Martin continues to learn and impress, and there is every likelihood of Jock Stein calling him into the Under-21 squad.

It could be that coal-miner Martin will soon be digging for soccer gold.

MANCHES



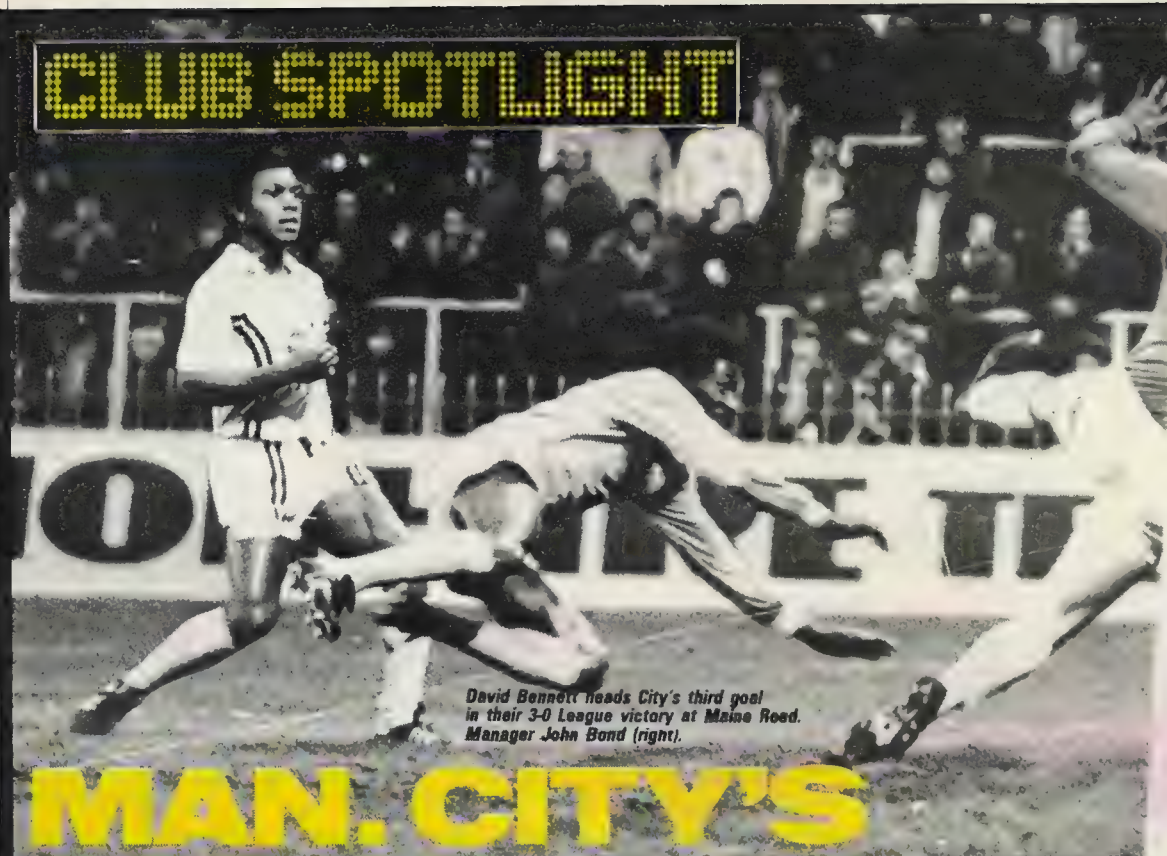
BACK ROW (left to right): Steve Manchize, Steve Daler, Paul Power, Tommy Booth, Joe Corrigan, Keith MacRae, Tommy Caton, Tony Henry, Tommy Hutchison, Ray Ranson.
FRONT ROW: Nicky Reid, Dave Bennett, Gary Buckley, Paul Sugrue, Dennis Tueart, Kevin Reeves, Bobby McDonald, Gerry Gow.

TER CITY



SHOOT!

CLUB SPOTLIGHT



David Bennett heads City's third goal in their 3-0 League victory at Maine Road. Manager John Bond (right).



MAN. CITY'S

MIRACLE COMEBACK

If someone had said during Manchester City's disastrous run at the start of the season that their defender Nicky Reid would reduce Liverpool's Kenny Dalglish to the level of ordinary club striker, or that pencil-slim David Bennett's skills would cause The Reds' defender Phil Neal some misery, he would have been labelled a know-nothing buffoon.

Collectively, Manchester City were a team on a perilous slide towards the Second Division; individually they were a rabble suffering from an acute loss of confidence and ambition.

The gulf of difference in playing ability between Manchester City and Liverpool was so wide at the time that some wondered how long they would remain rivals in the same Division.

On October 18, City were corpse-like at the bottom of the table, whilst Liverpool were perched buoyantly in third place.

It was nothing short of a miracle that three months later Reid and Bennett and a revitalised City were to give mighty Liverpool the fright of their lives in the League Cup Semi-Final first leg at Maine Road.

Even Liverpool's supporters in the 46,000 crowd felt their team were lucky to gain a 1-0 ascendancy after Kevin Reeves' third minute goal had been disallowed.

But John Bond's misery should not camouflage the huge strides City have taken since his arrival in October.

Then, City were First Division clowns; now they are star quality.

City chairman Peter Swales states categorically that City have emerged from the most "traumatic" period in the club's history.



The gifted Nicky Reid.

"If the lessons of that nightmare period are heeded, we should be all the better for the experience."

He remains cautious but inwardly delighted that City's gates are creeping closer to the bulging attendances Manchester United attract.

Thirty-nine thousand fans watched Reeves (2), Phil Boyer and Paul Power pump winning goals into Crystal Palace's net in the F.A. Cup Third Round tie, only 3,000 fewer than United attracted for their Cup game against Brighton.

City saw in 1980 losing a Cup-tie to Halifax, a year that started badly and got worse as it went on until Bond's arrival.

But players whose heads once rested wearily on troubled shoulders positively came alive after Bond's arrival.

City's old campaigners have been replaced by a group of

supremely gifted and experienced professionals.

Tommy Hutchison, arguably the best ball player in the First Division, arrived from Coventry City; Gerry Gow, Glasgow born veteran of more than 350 appearances for Bristol City, added spice and graft to midfield; Bobby McDonald, another Scot, brought tackling power to the defence upon his signing from Coventry; and Phil Boyer, whose career had been shaped at Bournemouth and Norwich under John Bond's leadership, was restored to the Bond-fold to add much needed fire-power to City's attack.

The influx of experienced players stiffened a team rich in teenage talent and desperately searching for a few "old heads" to help them.

Brilliant

Bond proved yet again that an inexperienced but brilliant group of artists can rarely survive by themselves without the support and guidance of more experienced, if less gifted, team-mates.

Suddenly, the precocious talent that Malcolm Allison had nurtured lovingly began to fulfil its rich promise. The youngsters began playing with a delightful freedom. The ball would speed from foot to foot with the abandon more often seen in a school playground in the lunch hour than at bitterly contested League matches.

"I took over a lot of good players from Tony Book and Malcolm Allison with the Ransons, Catons, Reids, Mackenzies and, to a lesser extent, the Powers, all men of immense promise and potential," says the City manager.

Ray Ranson is already an established England Under-21

international and Steve Mackenzie is destined to gain elevation to international level.

Reid's handling of Dalglish in the Cup-tie against Liverpool was a revelation, and so was Bennett.

John Bond claims he is using similar tactics to those he adopted when running Bournemouth and Norwich. He proves that motivation of players, commonsense, solid training, good coaching, and sound buying can move mountains in times of inflation and all the other problems said to beset the modern manager.

John Bond has restored pride to Manchester City. He runs the club as he runs his family life... happily.

And Manchester City are responding handsomely to his influence to the eternal gratitude of some of the best supporters in the world.

PAST HONOURS

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Runners-up: 1903-04, 1920-21, 1976-77.

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Runners-up: 1895-96, 1950-51. F.A. Cup winners: 1904, 1934, 1956, 1969.

Runners-up: 1926, 1933, 1955. Football League Cup winners: 1970, 1976.

Runners-up: 1973-74. European Cup-Winners' Cup winners: 1969-70.

Last season's record. First Division: 17th. F.A. Cup: Third Round. League Cup: Third Round. Club shop is open all week at the ground.

THE past seven years in Walker McCall's soccer career have been so bewildering that a fiction writer would be hard pressed to come up with something better for Roy of the Rovers . . .

McCall, all 6ft 3in of him, started his career with Aberdeen at Pittodrie and returned to The Dons this season. In between, though, his trek through the football world has been fairly active.

He left Aberdeen to join Ayr United, where he scored some valuable goals, but he then decided to try his luck on the North American circuit. He duly moved to San Diego Sockers where he made a bit of an impact.

Alex Stuart, the manager who bought him for Ayr United, kept a note of his progress and when he took over at Muirton and needed a regular marksman for struggling St. Johnstone he looked again for McCall.

Walker was delighted to cross the Atlantic once again but bad

luck travelled with him. He broke a leg at Muirton shortly after his return and never did himself justice with The Saints.

Atlanta Chiefs then stepped into the story by whisking him back to the States, where McCall was again among the goals. He takes up the tale: "I wasn't happy in America, and always intended to return to Aberdeen to live.

Train

"Although I'm from Ayrshire, my wife is an Aberdonian and we kept our house in the city.

"I was home during the American close season and received permission to train with my old teammates at Pittodrie.

"I must have impressed someone, because the next thing I knew Aberdeen had made Atlanta Chiefs an offer for me. It was accepted . . . and I was an Aberdeen player again.

"It was really amazing. I couldn't

get my signature on the transfer forms quickly enough. I've signed a two-year contract and I am delighted to be part of the set-up again."

McCall has been knocking in vital and valuable goals since his cut-price £25,000 transfer, and they could be crucial in the race for the Premier Division Championship.

Celtic, still determined to overwhelm The Dons after last season's form collapse that let Alex Ferguson's men clinch the title by a single point, have already felt the power of the lethal McCall.

The blond striker knocked in both goals at Parkhead earlier in the season in Aberdeen's 2-0 victory, and he was on the mark again at Pittodrie as the Celts crashed to a 4-1 hiding.

"Every goal I score for Aberdeen is a bonus," says McCall. "I just want to play my part and repay everyone at Pittodrie for the faith and confidence they have shown

in me."

His manager Alex Ferguson says: "Walker's skill and ability was never in doubt. However, he was drifting nowhere fast. Now I'm delighted to say he has got a grip of himself and is working hard. The dividends are there for all to see."

Goals

The deadly Walker McCall-Mark McGhee partnership has taken over from last season's double act of Steve Archibald and Drew Jarvie. The goals are continuing to flow and McCall could have the comeback story to end them all by clinching his return in style with a Championship medal.

"It's a nice thought," he says. "But I would prefer to talk about such things when the League race is all over and done with and we know who has won what. I take nothing for granted in soccer."

With a history like this that is hardly surprising!

The return of drifter McCall



McCall (centre) nets for Aberdeen against Celtic.

SECRET OF RAITH'S RISE

"RAITH Rovers in the Premier Division!" Had you said that to even the most avid supporter of the Fife coast side three years ago you might have been greeted with an unprintable answer, as fans of the Kirkcaldy club were slowly tiring of wise-cracks about their team.

Raith were then fighting to regain Scottish First Division recognition after two seasons as also-rans in Division Two.

But now the men from Starks Park, under new manager Gordon Wallace (right) have not only regained their First Division status but look set for a place in Scotland's Top Ten.

Rovers have led the way in the race for the First Division title along with Hibernian and a victory or two in the matches they face with other promotion contenders will see 37-year-old Wallace, a former Rovers striker who made

more than 350 appearances for The Blues, achieve his ambition.

"I had many happy times with Raith and to lead them into the Premier Division would be the nicest way to repay everyone at the club," says Wallace.

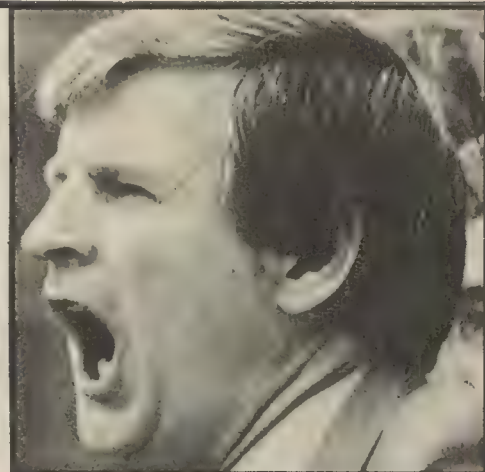
How does he explain the sudden change of fortunes of one of the less glamorous sides?

"There are no stars at Starks Park, just 29 players who will give their all for Raith Rovers."

However, Wallace is first to admit that the signing of Ian Ballantine from Dundee United was perhaps the turning point.

"Before Ian came we were a good side but were still relying on odd-goal wins.

"With Ian up front we have that extra strength to make those final minutes more relaxing."



GOAL-LINES

Send your letters to STEVE CARTER, GOAL-LINES, SHOOT!, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford St., London SE1 9LS. U.K. readers receive £10 for the Star Letter — £4 for every other published. Overseas readers receive a special SHOOT T-shirt. Please state which size: small, medium or large. When writing to us please mention the two features you liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT! All letters must be exclusive to SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from John Spence of Glasgow, who wins our special prize of £10. He writes:

CLOUGH TO LEAVE FOREST

★ This is the time of year for predictions. I have made up my own on a month to month basis for the rest of the year.

FEBRUARY. Scotland beat Israel 2-1.

MARCH. West Ham defeat Liverpool in League Cup Final 3-1. England draw 1-1 with Spain, whilst Scotland convincingly defeat N. Ireland 3-0.

APRIL. England defeat Rumania 2-0.

MAY. League Championship placings — 1. Aston Villa. 2. Ipswich. 3. Liverpool. Relegated — Crystal Palace, Leicester and Norwich. Promoted — West Ham, Chelsea and Swansea. Aberdeen win Premier Division. Ipswich lift UEFA Cup. England defeat Switzerland 2-0 and also win British Championship.

JUNE. England lose 1-0 to Hungary. Fashanu walks out on Norwich. Knighton is sacked by Sunderland. McMenemy takes over whilst Ball steps in at Southampton.

JULY. Fashanu joins Liverpool for £1 million and Johnson goes to Norwich.

AUGUST. John Greig resigns at Rangers. Jock Wallace returns from Leicester to take over (maybe I'm dreaming?).

SEPTEMBER. Clough and Taylor leave Forest for America. Frank Clark takes over and immediately re-signs Woodcock from Cologne.

OCTOBER. Sexton sacked by Man. Utd. No immediate appointment.

NOVEMBER. Celtic win Scottish League Cup. England defeat Hungary 3-0. Caretaker manager still in operation at Old Trafford.

DECEMBER. Alan Mullery appointed manager of Man. Utd. Wolves transfer list Andy Gray.

● I think your crystal ball needs cleaning ... but anything can and does happen in soccer.

Brian Clough and Peter Taylor, the famous Nottingham Forest management partnership.



Bristol Rovers' keeper Martin Thomas makes a valuable save from Chelsea's Colin Lee.

No merger

I WAS extremely angered to read Mr Praten's pessimistic view of football in Bristol (SHOOT dated Jan. 17th).

He obviously hasn't watched any football at Eastville or Aston Gate recently.

Being a loyal Rovers supporter home and away for numerous years I believe we are on the way up, even if it means having to be relegated first to rebuild. Terry Cooper is doing a great job with the very limited resources he has. Players like Gary Mabbutt and Mike Barrett are playing their best football under his leadership.

Amalgamation will solve nothing. If the two teams are as bad as Mr Praten makes out, then how can two bad teams combine to make one good one? CLIVE FARQUHAR, BRISTOL.

● It would be sad to see both Bristol clubs relegated ... but that's how it's looking right now. At least the rivalry will be kept up!

Thorn for Thistle

IN YOUR issue dated January 17th, you printed an article entitled "Old Pals Scoring Acts".

In Scotland Colin McAdam, the Rangers striker signed from Partick Thistle in the summer, has netted against his former mates on FOUR different occasions.

Another startling fact is that all four goals have been with his head.

In the fourth match between the clubs, at Ibrox Stadium on January 1st, Rangers took the lead with a McAdam goal only for it to be cancelled out by a second half goal by Alex O'Hara for Thistle. The twist — McAdam is ex-Thistle and O'Hara ex-Rangers.

I read your article and could find no equivalent in England.

PETER JARDINE, GLASGOW.

● Rangers will need a lot more McAdam goals if they're to win the title, which looks like eluding them again.

Goal-happy Boro

I ISSUE a challenge. Can any other team in the Football League match this record?

On only two appearances on BBC's Match of the Day this season, Middlesbrough have rifled in no fewer than eleven goals, for the lucky viewers (six against Norwich, Oct. 4th and five against Swansea, Jan. 3rd).

I doubt if any other team can match this performance for two matches in this or any other year.

Not bad for a 'defensive' team by the way.

SEAN CONWAY, MIDDLESBROUGH.

● Can any readers tell us of similar — or even better — T.V. goalscoring feats?

Players to blame

REPLYING to Gordon McQueen's article in which he condemned Clive Thomas's opinion that players are cheats, there are certain other facts which were not made known.

In it he opposed the accusations that players feigned injury, try to get opponents booked, steal ground at free-kicks and cannot accept authority on the pitch.

Many offenders of these faults have been caught by the eye that does not lie — television.

Without undue criticism, what soccer fan will not have seen Mickey Thomas' (Man. Utd.) wink after he had supposedly been felled. Captured by Match of the Day, a free-kick from a situation like this could be the difference between winning the F.A. Cup or not.

Anybody, anywhere, likes to make the best of things, but surely the Ipswich player who stole 12 yards from a half-way line free-kick against Leeds and scored from it (1978/79) was over-doing it.

Finally, whilst I am not alone in wanting better relations between the football authorities and the players, I think the case (shown on television) of an Everton player hugging the linesman after a disputed goal in the recent Everton-Arsenal, F.A. Cup Third Round match was just pushing it a bit past sanity.

No, Mr McQueen, it is not the refs who should bear the brunt of the blame every time, but the players who should act with a good bit more responsibility.

ANDREW DONOVAN, DUBLIN.

● Players aren't and never will be perfect. Neither will referees. Wouldn't football be boring if they were?

ASK THE EXPERT

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Hat-trick

Can you tell me how three goals by one player in a match came to be known as a hat-trick?

JAMES BLAKE, MAUTA

● It goes back many, many years. James — and the term was, in fact, borrowed from cricket.

In the summer game, in olden times it was the custom for a club to present a bowler with a new hat if he succeeded in taking three wickets with consecutive balls. Performing this feat became known as a hat-trick.

But although any three goals in a game is now generally regarded by many people as a hat-trick — strictly speaking, it should be three in a sequence unbroken by another player of the same side.

Cup-winning Boro?

Have Middlesbrough ever won the F.A. Cup?

CHARLIE ROFER, FIRE

● No, not yet, Charlie — they've never got beyond the last eight.

But Middlesbrough achieved one unique record in that — in both 1895 and 1898 — they became the only present Football League club to have won the old F.A. Amateur Cup which was abandoned in 1974.

Number one caps

Which goalkeeper has played in the most full internationals for England?

KARL BATMAN, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

● Gordon Banks easily holds that one, Karl.

He gained 73 full caps — and, but for tragically losing an eye in a car crash in October, 1972, there would probably have been quite a few more before Messrs. Clemence and Shilton took over between the posts.

Incidentally, "Banksie" is both Leicester's most-capped player with 37 of that total, and Stoke's with the other 36.

Consecutive Cup clashes

Is it true Leeds and Cardiff were drawn against each other in the F.A. Cup three seasons running?

OKOROBIA EGODO, NIGERIA

● Yes, quite true, Okorobia — it happened in January, 1956, 1957 and 1958.

What's more, each time the tie was in the Third Round, each time it was played at Elland Road — and each time Cardiff had an away win by the identical score of 2-1.

During that period, by the way, Leeds set up a record for a Football League club by playing 16 consecutive F.A. Cup ties between January, 1952 and January, 1963, without a single victory.

'WATCH OUT FOR WALSH'



Forest youngsters Colin Walsh (left) and Bryn Gunn (inset) are beginning to make an impact in the First Division.



BEHIND the first team scene at Nottingham Forest, there's been quite a rebuilding programme taking place in the last two or three years.

And the results of that operation are now being seen with the likes of Gary Mills, Bryn Gunn and Colin Walsh pressing ahead to establish themselves as First Division players.

We've had so much success in recent years that the players in the side have become household names but the boss and Peter Taylor have always realised the value of having a stream of youngsters coming through.

Ron Fenton and Liam O'Kane, the coaches in charge of the reserves and youth side, are playing their part, too, once talented youngsters have been spotted and then signed up.

It's a long process trying to groom young players for League football and when they are at a club that has been as successful as Forest, then they really have got to be something special to make the grade.

Series

The experience that Bryn Gunn has had spells out what I mean. He came in as a 16-year-old but then disappeared from the first team scene for several years before stringing a series of appearances together this season.

Now he's 22 and at the stage of his career where he is regarded as an important member of the first team squad and ready to come in whenever he is needed.

Gary Mills is only just 19 and made progress a lot more quickly. You will remember that he played in last season's European Cup Final against Hamburg when Trevor Francis was ruled out through injury.

Gary has shown his ability to slot into several different positions and while he has got more experience than the rest of our young players, he has still been nursed along gradually.

Now Colin Walsh has emerged this season as a player who looks capable of making his mark on the game. He took his chance when John Robertson went down injured before Christmas and in a handful of appearances, Colin helped himself to a couple of goals.

I don't think he really regards himself as a great goalscorer but everyone at Forest has been impressed with his skill. He's got a great left foot.

These are the kind of players who will be pressing for regular places between now and the end of the season... and keeping the experienced players on their toes.

I only wish I were 18 again!

'FOREST FOR WORLD TITLE'

WE'VE got a big date coming up on February 11, when we go to Tokyo to contest the World Club Championship with Nacional, of Uruguay.

And judging by Uruguay's success in the recent Gold Cup, football in their country seems to be on the crest of a wave at the moment.

Nacional, who are based in Montevideo, are the top side in Uruguay so we are under no illusions about the task that is facing us in the Far East.

But we are all looking forward to what is sure to be a prestigious event and in view of the several disappointments we've had this season, we are determined to try and make the world club title ours.

It's all going to be new to me because I've never played against a Uruguayan side or been to Tokyo before.

When the players found out that the match would be in Japan, it came as a bit of a surprise but the sponsors Toyota

are putting up a lot of money to stage the game, so they obviously had a big say in what was going to happen.

One of the aspects of the trip that we are not quite sure about is the enormous amount of travelling that is involved... I've heard it's something like 14 hours each way!

That might not leave us in the best of shape for the following weekend match but it's an important date and we are determined to make the most of it.

FOOTBALL FUNNIES

"It works out that the cost of insurance for his back, his ankle, his knee cap, his right leg, his chest and his left elbow comes to more than his transfer fee."



"I've found out why your bugle wouldn't work. Someone put a sock in it."

"Leave him there. If they score he'll be offside."



This week Aldershot youngster Paul Sanford, who scored four goals on Boxing Day against Hereford, selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx



"I won't be playing in America just yet. I'll wait until I retire."



"I think your boss is calling you off."



"I think the new winger's a bit thick. I told him to practise crossing the ball."

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FOR Charlton's Martin Robinson the prospect of a quick return to the Second Division presents him with an interesting challenge.

As an out-and-out front runner he was becoming increasingly worried by his failure to score goals last season as Charlton struggled in vain to avoid dropping into Division Three.

But after a chat with manager Mike Bailey, Martin agreed to move out of the firing line and drop back into midfield to try to pick up the pieces of his shattered confidence.

And since then the goals have been going in for him from all angles.

"It sounds daft, I know, but since I relinquished the role of goal-scorer, I seem to have been hitting the target more often than ever before," Martin said.

"Apart from a couple of games in the reserves, while I was with Tottenham, I've always played up front. So I was surprised when the boss asked me to fill a midfield role at the end of last season.

"But things were going so badly for me, and I was getting more and more frustrated with myself, that at the time I was only too willing to try anything that might improve the situation.

"So I operated in the middle for the last few games, and I was lucky enough to score a couple of goals while I was there.

"I didn't think any more about the situation during the close-season. I just assumed that when this campaign started, I'd be back up front, as usual.

"But on our pre-season tour of Denmark, the boss picked me to play in midfield again. He said he was pleased with the way I'd worked there before, and he wanted to continue the experiment, so long as I was in agreement.

"And that's the way it's stayed, with Derek Hales and young Paul Walsh as our two main strikers, and myself as one of four men playing across the middle of the park.

"It's meant that I've got away

from the sort of close-marking I was used to. Now I've got the opportunity to face the play, and actually run at defenders, instead of having them breathing down my neck all the time. And I've been able to exploit the space Derek and Paul create by drifting into scoring positions.

"That's where my experience as a finisher has come in, because it's

Striker Robinson a bigger hit in midfield

no good getting into those sort of situations if you can't put the ball away.

"But despite scoring goals again, which I've always enjoyed doing, I'm relishing the fact that in midfield, I'm involved with the action far more.

"My goals this season have come very much as a bonus, of course. Just how I'll cope if they dry up again remains to be seen. But with the team going so well as a whole, that's something I haven't got to worry about right now."

It's certainly very much a 'happy Valley' down in South London — in stark contrast to last season when, as Martin put it, "we seemed to have more than our fair share of aggro."

Relegation had looked a distinct possibility for several seasons, and when it finally came, it was some-



what of a relief.

"No one likes to go down," explained Martin. "But the way we were going, living on a knife-edge week in and week out, it wasn't doing anyone any good.

"The boss's first priority was to tighten up our defence. The 78 goals we conceded last season

was the worst in the Division. This season we've shown a big improvement in that department. And that's meant we've been able to push forward with more conviction. We only scored 39 goals in the League last term. But once again, we've looked far more impressive in that area, too."

NEWCASTLE'S

'MEAN MACHINE'

STAND by for fireworks when Newcastle's new striker Mick Harford gets among the Second Division defences.

On the day he left Lincoln for United, the Fourth Division club's manager, Colin Murphy, described Harford as a tough, mean player.

And Newcastle's manager Arthur Cox agreed: "I watched Mick often and he knows how to handle himself. One of my jobs might be to tame him."

But the County Durham-born striker also has plenty of control and skill, which adds up to a formidable package, as Murphy well knows.

"I'm absolutely sick to be losing him," said Lincoln's chief. "But the fee of £200,000 is a record for a Fourth Division player and we couldn't afford to turn it down — that's an economic fact of life for clubs like Lincoln."



For United fans, there is the promise of an old-style striker, whose power in the air is expected to revive memories of former Tyneside hero Wyn Davies.

Davies, of course, is just one of a long line of famous centre-forwards who have always had a special place in the hearts of the men who stand on the terraces at St. James' Park.

Davies, Jackie Milburn, Malcolm Macdonald ... Harford is well aware of the impact they made at Newcastle. In fact, Milburn was one of the first people he met when he walked into the ground for the first time.

"My father has always told me about him," says Harford. "I've grown up with stories about his goals and it was a great thrill to meet him. I just stood there with my mouth open and stared at him."

And Milburn was quick to join Cox in pointing out to the Newcastle new boy that he had come to the best stage for centre-forwards. "The world's at your feet if you score goals for these fans," they agreed.

Harford, who is 21, knows all about the fervour of North East supporters ... from his days as a Sunderland fan!

"Newcastle were always the old enemy, but that didn't influence my decision," he said with a smile. "I know they're a big club with tremendous potential and I had no second thoughts about signing."

Former boss Colin Murphy is sure the goals will soon start flowing for Harford. "If he maintains the progress he's shown in the last 18 months, he'll go high.

"If Newcastle do get back into the First Division, I believe he is equipped to do well for them."



THE brilliant football brain of Paul Breitner is Bayern Munich's greatest asset in the race for the German Bundesliga Championship title.

But the master tactician who rules the midfield and directs the side like a general, will never again play for West Germany.

Breitner had much of Germany aghast a few years ago with his Maoist political beliefs, and dislike for typical German business drive and hard work. He went to Real Madrid and says: "It was the happiest time of my life. I had only a little training to do each day, and then could spend the rest of the time with my family."

Wild man

Breitner still arrives for Bayern matches dressed like a wild man from the mountains. Thick beard, cowboy hat, big jacket and boots — hardly Germanic dress. But Germans are not worried by that these days — they want to see the master footballer back in the national side.

But it won't happen if Breitner is to be believed. "Playing for your country is about playing for honour," he says. "You do not play for money when you represent your country — it is for prestige alone. But I had enough of that in the six years I played for my country. I am a professional player

Breitner nets West Germany's first goal from the penalty spot in the 2-1 defeat of Holland in the 1974 World Cup Final in Munich.

Rumours of disagreements between Breitner and national coach Jupp Derwall persist. But Breitner insists: "It is not because of any disagreement between myself and the coach. I will not play for the reason I have stated. I do not want to spend time at training camps with the national team — I wish to be with my family as often as possible."

The loss to the international side is critical. Breitner, it is said without a trace of dissent in any part of Germany, is playing better now than at any time in his career.

Even coaches outside Germany accept the point. Leo Beenhakker, coach of Ajax Amsterdam who lost to Bayern in this season's European Cup, says: "Breitner is the brain behind Bayern Munich. Without him, they are only an average side. With him, anything is possible. He is crucial to the form of Rummenigge — with Breitner in the side to create the situations for him, Rummenigge is a formidable opponent. With Breitner missing, he is only half the same player."

Yet Breitner reveals he has been nowhere near his peak this season. He has had a serious lung illness, which has made him play on reduced power. "This has been quite a good season so far for Bayern, but not for me," he says. "I was injured for much of the first four months and haven't been able to play as I wanted to. I have had one injury after the other, and it has been very frustrating."

"I have played at only 50-60 per cent of my capabilities. I cannot be

German Cup the following week, again losing at Kaiserslautern. A poor spell for the side most of Europe fears in the last eight of the European Cup.

So can Bayern win the German title once again? "It will be between Hamburg and ourselves," says Breitner. "I think there is a big gap between the two clubs and the other sides in Germany."

Hamburg will be far stronger in the second half of the season, which re-started on January 19 after the mid-season break, for the recent acquisition of Franz Beckenbauer, once the legendary performer of... Bayern Munich.

Breitner believes Beckenbauer will not only make a successful return to the Bundesliga, but also return to the national side. "I believe Franz will be back in the West German side very soon, and that he will play for Germany in the 1982 World Cup in Spain."

'Personalities'

"The return of Beckenbauer is for us as Keegan's return to England was for you. It will create enormous interest throughout the Bundesliga for we, too, are short of true personalities."

"Franz Beckenbauer is still the best sweeper in West Germany. Now, people say the successor to Franz Beckenbauer in the national side will be Franz Beckenbauer. And it is no joke, for although he is 35, Germany still need him."

West Germany would certainly profit from a world class Beckenbauer. And there seems little has changed with 'Kaiser Franz' since his return from three years with the Cosmos. If Derwall picks him again for the national side, Germany will be formidable

BREITNER WANTS MONEY, NOT HONOUR

who plays for money, to keep his family.

"It is understandable for people to talk about it. But nothing will persuade me to change my mind — I shall not play for West Germany again."

satisfied with that."

Bayern slipped recently after a good start to the season. They lost in the League at Kaiserslautern, could manage only a 1-1 home draw against Tony Woodcock's FC Cologne, and then went out of the

opponents in Spain.

Breitner adds: "I think our football will be as strong as it was in the early 70's within a few years. There will be a great mixture of experience, youth and talent with players like Beckenbauer, Kaltz, Rummenigge, Stielike, Hansi Müller and Schuster. West Germany has the talent once again."

Breitner's return to the national side, much desired by all except the man himself, would make West Germany favourites for the World Cup in 1982. Even without him, the Germans will be stronger than for some years.

But Breitner, meanwhile, is happy to devote what spare time he has to his family. "After my football and business interests, I do not have a lot of time. I want that time for my family alone," he says.

Breitner's charming family, and Bayern Munich, who receive his undivided footballing attention, are indeed fortunate.



'Future England star' in Germany

A POTENTIAL England star is at present playing in the West German Second Division. He is Wayne Thomas, 22, of Alemannia Aachen and his coach, Erhard Ahmann says: "Wayne has a typical English fighting heart. As soon as I saw him in action I signed him. I'm sure he could play in the Bundesliga or the English First Division. He could even go on to become an international star."

Thomas was previously with Nuneaton Borough and Peterborough, under Noel Cantwell and John Barnwell.

On a tour of Germany aged 19 he was spotted by KSV Baunatal and is now a vital part of the Aachen team pushing for promotion to the Bundesliga.

One big difference between Aachen and other Second Division

clubs is their fans. They average 17,500, and it's not unusual for 25,000 to cheer them on.

"I'm fluent in German now," says Thomas. "It was strange when I arrived... everyone cracking jokes... I felt out of it. I went to college and soon picked up the language."

"I like the German style of soccer, it's not kick and run like it is in England. Having said that, I'd love the chance to play in front of my own fans again."

"Financially I'd lose out, but that wouldn't bother me. I don't regret coming to Germany. The clubs



have good youth policies and look after young players.

"Too many players are wasted in England. Playing here has certainly done me the world of good."

"I'm happy with Aachen, and being surrounded by good players has improved my game. But my ambition is to return to England and play in the First Division."



Michel Hidalgo, at the Copa De Oro in Uruguay to watch France's World Cup opponents, Holland, told the Press: "Holland were so laborious it seems untrue, and we will qualify if they do not have some better players when we meet them."

Woody snub

IN its critical review of the year, West German magazine Kicker rated four West Germans world-class: goalkeeper Tony Schumacher, defender Hans-Peter Briegel, midfielder Paul Breitner and striker Karl-Heinz Rummenigge. Of the foreigners in the Bundesliga, only Austrian sweeper Bruno Pezzey got a world-class rating. Tony Woodcock wasn't even considered international class. Meanwhile, at the halfway mark in Italy, Liam Brady was the fifth best foreigner, according to a points-per-game average taken from four sports publications.

BRAZILIAN players are still complaining they play too much football. They seem to have grounds for complaint: the more successful players took part in 90 games last year.

ANY readers interested in exchanging Continental programmes can write to: Dutch Programme Club, Postbox 232, IJsselstein, Holland.

News flashes

- Several Bundesliga clubs, including Bayern Munich and Hamburger SV, have openly criticised the West German national team's masseur Erich Deuser. His critics claim that at 70 he is damaging the muscles of star players. Herr Deuser is regarded as a good luck charm by his F.A. having served for the first time when West Germany won the World Cup in Switzerland in 1954.

- Italy's clubs have put forward a two point plan to raise money for the earthquake victims near Naples. They have

suggested to the clubs that they add a small 'earthquake tax' to their admission prices and also want the state-run football pools, the Totocalcio, to give a slice of their profits to the fund.

- Gerd Müller, the German star centre-forward now in the USA, hurt his back playing tennis in September, causing pain in his right arm and no feeling in his fingers. Then, back in Germany, he played in the benefit match for Jürgen Grabowski, Eintracht Frankfurt v German World Cup team 1974 (6-4) and hurt his back again, and now may need an operation.

- Belgium's former golden boy star Paul Van

THE directors of Portuguese side Boavista have suspended the team's manager Antonio Texeira for using "offensive and humiliating" language to the players! The squad has now been asked to draw up a short-list of possible replacements.

Gmoch accused

THE former coach of the Polish national team, Jacek Gmoch, is in the middle of a controversy. According to a report in the Polish paper Pilka Nozna he took nearly all the 25,000 U.S. dollars a private sponsor gave to him for the players who played in the opening game of the 1978 World Cup Finals.

Gmoch is accused of giving each player just ten dollars, pocketing the rest himself.

Now with Greek club Ioannina, Gmoch denies the charges.

The Rat goes



BUENOS AIRES giant Boca Juniors are still having all sorts of problems, both on and off the football field. The Argentine side had a miserable campaign under Antonio 'The Rat' Rattin (above), and the season ended with both the manager and the board of directors out in the street!

But there were even more problems when the new board held its first meeting under new president Martin Noel.

A group of fans were less than happy about the composition of the new club administration and the appointment of Silvio Marzolini as first team manager, and several of them started a fierce punch-up with the directors outside the stadium.

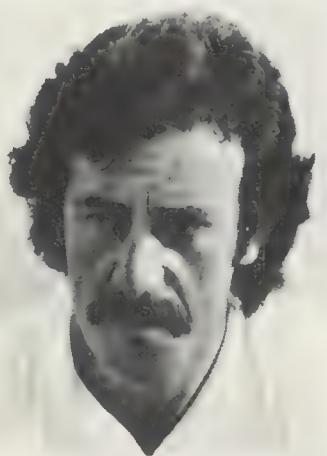
At one point, gunshots were heard, and the crowd promptly stampeded! Club officials later played down the incidents, claiming that it was merely a case of 'people settling old scores'.

Real problems

REAL MADRID'S poor position in the Spanish League (well, fifth is poor by their standards) has been causing a few ripples to pass across the Champions' normally tranquil waters, and some critics are already calling for the sacking of Yugoslav manager Vujadin Boskov.

But one thing is certain — Real have been hit by a cruel run of injuries that has prevented Boskov from fielding the same team in two consecutive matches.

At the time of writing, no fewer than six first teamers are out of action — namely Benito (ligaments), Cunningham (mixture of big toe and suspension!), San Jose (ligaments), Garcia Hernandez (groin), Del Bosque (right, broken rib) and Pineda (hairline fracture of shin).



While the West German national side was playing in the Copa de Oro in Uruguay, where the temperature was nudging 100 degrees, Hamburger SV's new sweeper Franz Beckenbauer had a more conventional winter break, ski-ing in Switzerland.

STORY OF A STAR STORY OF A STAR STORY OF A STAR STORY OF A STAR ST

LIFE could hardly be better right now for Ipswich striker Paul Mariner. In the forefront of his club's challenge for the League Championship, he is also the man in possession of the England number nine shirt.

But there was a time when he saw no future for himself in football. In fact, at the age of 16, he threw away his boots and decided to quit. Instead he switched to cricket.

"I was a pretty useful cricketer and had trials with Lancashire schoolboys and youths," he recalls. "So I thought it would be a good idea to concentrate fully on it for a year to see if I could make the grade."

"At that time I didn't seem to be getting anywhere with my football. It had always been my ambition to become a professional, ever since the first time my dad took me to Burnden Park to see my local side Bolton Wanderers."

"I seemed to be on the right lines when I was made captain of the school team and then I heard that Bolton were interested. My teacher didn't think it would be a good idea to sign for them because he reckoned I'd get a better offer from a bigger club and I took his advice."

But that offer never arrived. While his football boots collected dust in a cupboard, however, young Mariner failed to make the grade as a cricketer and eventually succumbed to the temptation to try again.

He needed considerable encouragement to come out of 'retirement' but eventually agreed to join a local youth side who were short of players.

In the same side was a goal-scoring left-winger called Mickey Walsh who went on to represent Blackpool, Everton, Q.P.R. and the Republic of Ireland before moving to Porto last year.

"I then accepted an offer to sign

semi-pro for Chorley, who were in the Northern Premier League, and I settled in well, scoring a few goals from midfield. But just when the senior clubs were beginning to take an interest I fractured a leg and was out for six months."

By the time Mariner was fit to return Chorley had dropped into the Cheshire County League and he never expected to play at a higher level. But a goal famine saw him switched from midfield to attack and suddenly things started to happen.

Mariner was scoring goals week after week and a Plymouth scout called Verdi Godwin was a regular on the touchline at all Chorley fixtures. Finally he made his move.

'Interested'

"I know it might sound corny now but really I could hardly believe that a senior club was interested in me," he says. "If there's one bloke I should thank for being where I am today it's Verdi. He always believed in me."

Mariner travelled to Devon for a week's trial but failed to impress in practice games. But Plymouth decided to take him on a goodwill tour of Cornwall for a series of friendly matches. In his first appearance he scored with his first kick of the ball and by the time the party returned he had boosted his tally to three in as many games.

"I think it was the goals that prompted Plymouth to make me an offer. Tony Waiters often told me he wasn't over-impressed but decided to take a chance but I also happen to know that Verdi Godwin kept telling him it would be a big mistake to let me go."

"Until then I had been working in a factory in Bolton where they

Young Paul in action for Plymouth (right) and after helping Town to win the 1978 F.A. Cup Final.

ENGLAND & IPSWICH STRIKER

PAUL

made tin cans. In fact, I signed professional forms for Plymouth on my 20th birthday, the day after I had completed my apprenticeship as an engineer," he recalls.

Chorley received a down payment of £1,500, about one per cent of Mariner's current value on the inflated British transfer market, and were promised further cash IF, not WHEN, the 20-year-old made the grade.

A second cheque was soon on its way North, however, as Mariner fought his way into the Plymouth first team after just five outings with the reserves. His cause was helped by the fact that Argyle were struggling to score goals.

Manager Waiters gave Mariner

the chance quicker than he had expected but there was no looking back. The following season, 1974-75, Plymouth finished second in the Third Division table to earn promotion, thanks mainly to the goals of Mariner and his striking partner Billy Rafferty.

He enjoyed his spell at Home Park, pointing out: "I never had a cross word with Tony Waiters. He always wanted the best for me and he is someone for whom I have the utmost respect. The same applies to Bobby Saxton, the present Argyle boss who played in the same team with me."

Mariner continued to improve and finished Plymouth's first season back in Division Two as top goalscorer. And when the new campaign kicked off with his lethal finishing still punishing opposing defences, the bigger clubs soon became interested.

"I can remember scoring eight goals in the first ten games of the 1976-77 season," he says, "and all of a sudden the newspapers were full of stories that I was on my way from Plymouth. They were only

Playing for England against Scotland at Hampden Park.



RY OF A STAR **STORY OF A STAR** STORY OF A STAR **STORY OF A STAR** STOR

MARINER

part
one

rumours to me, but I reacted in the same way as just about anyone would. I was ambitious and wanted to play at the very highest level."

Confirmation that he was the subject of considerable interest arrived via a telephone call from Tony Waiters to let him know that Ron Greenwood, then manager of

West Ham, had made an offer.

Before long, high-scoring Mariner was the target in a transfer saga that saw West Ham eventually overtaken by two other clubs keen to secure his services.

NEXT WEEK: The big-money move that pushed Paul into the limelight... and earned him an England place.



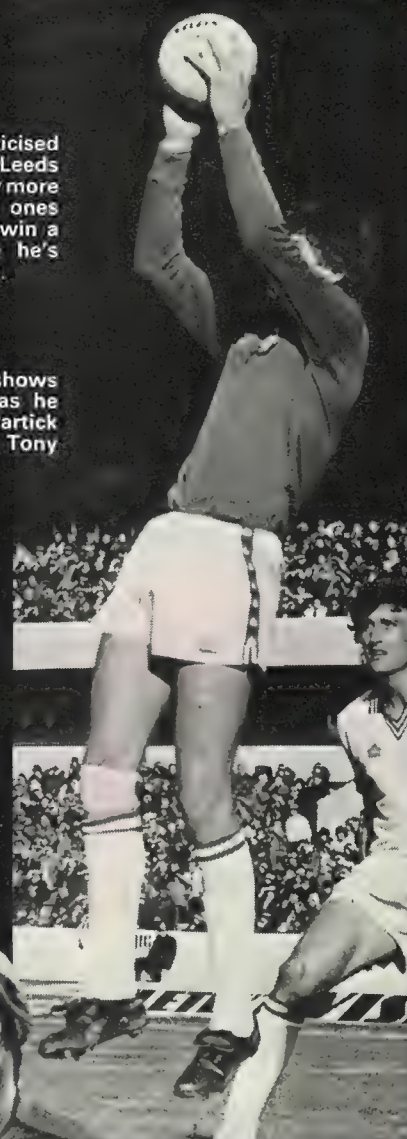
SAFE 'KEEPING

LEFT
A lot of people tipped Stoke City to be relegated, but thanks to some sterling defensive displays they're in a safe mid-table position. Here, Peter Fox catches under pressure from Arsenal's Frank Stapleton.



RIGHT
John Lukic has been criticised this season, but the Leeds youngster has had many more good games than bad ones and may yet go on to win a full England cap once he's regained his confidence.

BELOW, CENTRE
John Martin of Airdrie shows a safe pair of hands as he collects the ball from Partick Thistle's dangerman Tony Higgins.



Sunderland's Chris Turner shows no fear as he goes down to save at the feet of Birmingham's Keith Bertchin.



Tartan Talk
DEREK
JOHNSTONE

Derek nets one of his 79 Premier Division goals for Rangers — this one coming against Morton at Ibrox.

'My Top Ten record'

A FRIEND of mine pointed out the other day that I have scored more goals in the Premier Division than any other player.

I'm not a great record collector, and I must say I was more than slightly surprised at this information. I knew I had scored a fair amount, but not as many as 79 in five-and-a-half years.

Now, that might be a statistic to put a smile on any other player's face, but you won't find me grinning too much these days.

At the time of writing, I haven't even scored a single goal in the Top Ten this season and I would be less than truthful if I said the lack of goals doesn't bother me.

Okay, I haven't been playing up front this season and the responsibility for getting goals has fallen more on front runners such as Colin McAdam, John MacDonald and Davie Cooper, but even if I was playing in goal, I would have thought I would have notched up at least one by this time in the season!

What's the problem? I have heard it suggested that I have lost all my confidence, but that is rubbish.

While I agree that goalscoring has a lot to do with faith in your own ability and a bit of natural confidence, that doesn't solve everything.

By playing in a central defensive role my runs into the other team's half have been a rarity. But, really, that's no excuse because I have played at centre-back before and managed to score the odd goal or two from dead-ball situations.

Barren

I feel the chances just haven't been dropping the way they have done in the past. This has happened to me before. I remember a few years back I was in the middle of a barren spell.

It started to niggle at me until I went out against Hearts at Ibrox and scored four! Everything went right that afternoon and that was me back on a goalscoring run again.

By not playing up front in the firing line you must also become a lot more unselfish. As an out-and-out striker I was always heading for

goal, always greedy to pinch one or two, although I hasten to add I always tried to lay the ball off if a colleague was in a better position than myself.

Colin McAdam has been our main target man this season and we have been playing to him. He is such a good penalty box player that he makes openings for himself by his constant darting about, and he is always looking for the ball.

Actually, I would quite happily go through this season without scoring a goal if someone told me we would win the Premier Division Championship.

I don't care who scores the goals for Rangers just so long as they go in and we keep on winning.

On a personal note, I would like to get a goal or two, but just so long as we do well and provide the fans with solid, attacking, entertaining, winning football that will be enough for me.

Our form has been erratic this season. There has been the loss of players through injury and suspension and this has interrupted the team's run.

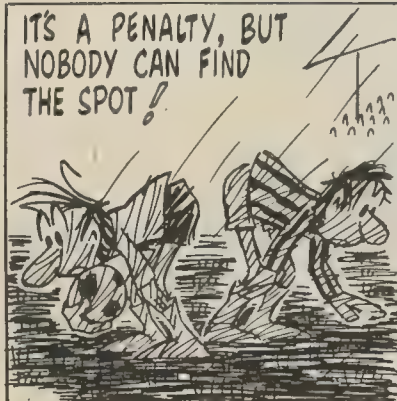
We know we have a lot of lost ground to make up in the race for the title, but I would like to think that we can still overhaul Aberdeen and Celtic.

I'll leave now on a happy note. My congratulations to big Colin McAdam whose wife presented him with a baby son recently. Watch for the name Ross McAdam ... he could be every bit as famous as a footballer as his father some day!

Cheers for now and wish me all the luck on the goalscoring front ...

TARTAN TALK FROM
CELTIC'S DANNY
McGRAIN NEXT WEEK

NOBBY



LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SCORERS...

Thursday, Jan 1, 1981

Scottish First

(Continued)

DUMBARTON (1) 1 (Brown)	
CLYDEBANK (1) 1 (Sharkey)	2,900
DUNDEE (1) 2 (Sinclair, Stephen)	
ST JOHNSTONE (1) 2 (Morton, Pelosi)	8,500
EAST STIRLING 0	
FALKIRK 0	3,200
MOTHERWELL (1) 1 (McLoughlin)	
HAMILTON (2) 3 (McManus, Wright, Howie)	4,000

RAITH (0) 1 (Ballantyne pen)	
DUNFERMLINE (0) 0	1,750
STIRLING (0) 1 (Armstrong pen)	
AYR (1) 1 (Fleetling)	2,000

Scottish Second

ALBION (0) 2 (Hill 2 (1 pen))	
MEADOWBANK (0) 1 (McCallan)	700
ALLOA (2) 3 (McIntosh, McComb, Morrison)	
STENHOUSEMUIR (1) 2 (Hancock 2)	1,100
BRECHIN (1) 3 (Paterson, Campbell 2)	
MONTROSE (1) 1 (Johnston)	1,200
COWDENBEATH (0) 1 (Halley og)	
EAST FIFE (0) 1 (Burt)	1,000
QoS (1) 3 (Gordon, Robertson, Alexander)	
STRANRAER (0) 0	1,471
Clyde v Queen's Park, Forfar v Arbroath postponed.	

Friday, January 2

Third Division

READING (0) 3 (Kearney, Sanchez, Dixon)	
CHESTER (0) 0	3,804

Saturday, Jan 3

F.A. Cup (Third Round)

BARNESLEY (1) 2 (Parker 2)	
TORQUAY (1) 1 (Lawrence)	14,431
BIRMINGHAM (1) 1 (Bertschin)	
SUNDERLAND (0) 1 (Chisholm)	23,098
Birmingham: Weaslands, Langen, Lees, Curbishley, Gallagher, Todd, Ainscow, Bertschin, Worthington, Gemmill, Dillon.	
Sunderland: Turner, Whitworth, Bolton, Elliott, Hindmarch, Arnott, Rowell, Cooke (Brown), Hawley, Chisholm, Cummins.	
BURY (0) 1 (Hilton)	
FULHAM (0) 1 (Mahoney)	5,360
COLCHESTER (0) 0	
WATFORD (1) 1 (Poskett)	7,769
Colchester: Walker, Cook, Longhorn, Leslie, Wignall, Packer, Hodge (Gough), Foley, Bremner, Lee, Allinson.	
Watford: Sherwood, Rice, Harrison, Taylor, Sims, Jackett, Callaghan, Blissett, Armstrong, Train, Poskett.	

DERBY 0	
BRISTOL CITY 0	19,071
Derby: Jones, Emery, Richards, Clark, McFarland, Ramage, Powell S (Reid), Hector, Biley, Swindlehurst, Emson.	
Bristol City: Shaw, Sweeney, Hay, Tainton, Rodgers, Marshall, Aitken, Fitzpatrick, Mabbutt, Pritchard, Garland.	

EVERTON (0) 2 (Sansom (og), Lyons)	
ARSENAL (0) 0	34,240
Everton: McDonagh, Gidman, Bailey, Wright, Ratcliffe, Ross, McMahon, Eastoe, Varadi (Lyons), Hartford, McBride.	
Arsenal: Jennings, Devine, Sansom, Talbot (McDermott), O'Leary, Young, Hollins, Sunderland, Stapleton, Gating, Rix.	

HUDDERSFIELD (0) 0	
SHREWSBURY (1) 3 (Topping (og), Cross, Bates)	14,712
Huddersfield: Rankin (Robins), Brown, Sutton, Topping, Robinson, Stanton, Lillis, Kennedy, Cowling, Austin, Kindon.	
Shrewsbury: Wardie, King, Griffin, Keay, Leonard, Turner, Tong, Petts (McLaren), Cross, Atkins, Bates.	

HULL (0) 1 (Deacy)	
DONCASTER (0) 0	10,709

IPSWICH (1) 1 (Mariner)	
ASTON VILLA (0) 0	27,721
Ipswich: Cooper, Burley, Mills, Thijssen, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Mariner, Brazil, Gates.	
Aston Villa: Rimmer, Swain, Williams, Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Bremner, Shaw, Withe, Cowans, Morley (Geddis).	

LEEDS (0) 1 (Hird pen)	
COVENTRY (1) 1 (Thomas)	24,523
Leeds: Lukic, Greenhoff (Hanson), Gray, Flynn, Hart, Cherry, Parlano, Hird, Connor, Sabella, Graham.	
Coventry: Sealey, Thomas, Roberts, Blair, Dyson, Gillespie, Bannister (Jacobs), Daly, Thompson, Hateley, Hunt.	

LEICESTER (1) 3 (Lineker, Buchanan, Melrose)	
CARDIFF (0) 0	17,527
Leicester: Wallington, Williams, Gibson, Peake, Scott, O'Neill, Lineker, MacDonald, Young, Buchanan (Melrose), Wilson.	
Cardiff: Healey, Jones, Lewis, Hughes, Pontin, Thomas (Micallef), Ronson, Buchanan, Kitchen, Stevens, Giles.	

LIVERPOOL (2) 4 (McDermott, Dalglish 2, Kennedy R)	
ALTRINCHAM (0) 1 (Heathcote pen)	37,170
Liverpool: Clemence, Neal, Kennedy A, Irwin, Kennedy R, Money, Dalglish, Lee, Johnson, McDermott, Case.	
Altrincham: Connaught, Allan, Davison, Bailey (Whitbread), Owens, King, Barrow, Heathcote, Johnson, Rogers, Howard.	

MAIDSTONE (0) 2 (Woon, Ovard)	
EXETER (1) 4 (Pillar 2, Kellow, Rogers)	6,347

MANCHESTER CITY (0) 4 (Reeves 2 (1 pen), Power, Boyer)	
CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 0	39,347
Man. City: Corrigan, Ranson, McDonald, Reid, Power, Caton, Boyer, Gow, Mackenzie, Hutchison, Reeves.	
Crystal Palace: Fry, Hinshelwood, Boyle, Nicholas (Goodchild), Cannon, Gilbert, Murphy, Lovell, Sealy, Welsh, Smillie.	

MANCHESTER UTD (0) 2 (Duxbury, Thomas)	
BRIGHTON (2) 2 (Horton, Ritchie)	42,199
Man. Utd: Bailey, Nicholl, Albiston, McLroy (Duxbury), Jovanovic, Moran, Coppell, Birtles, Jordan, Macari, Thomas.	
Brighton: Moseley, Gregory, Stevens, Horton, Foster, Lawrenson, McNab, Ritchie, Robinson, Clark, O'Sullivan.	

MANSFIELD (1) 2 (Bird, Parkinson)	
CARLISLE (0) 2 (Bannon, Bird (og))	5,598

NEWCASTLE (1) 2 (Waddle 2)	
SHEFFIELD WED (1) 1 (Pearson)	22,499
Newcastle: Carr, Camey, Mitchell, Martin, Johnson, Boam, Trewick, Wharton, Hibbitt, Waddle, Shinton.	
Sheff. Wed: Bolder, Blackhall, Grant, Smith, Shirdiff P, Sterland, Mirocevic (Pearson), Johnson, Leman, McCulloch, Curran.	

NORWICH (0) 1 (Downs)	
CAMBRIDGE (0) 0	18,420
Norwich: Baker, McDowell, Downs, McGuire, Hoadley, Watson, Mendham, Fashanu, Royle, Paddon, Goble.	
Cambridge: Key, Donaldson, Murray, Smith, Fallon, Finney, Streete, Spriggs, Reilly, Taylor, Christie (Gibbins).	



Martyn Bennett of West Bromwich Albion goes close in his side's 3-0 defeat of Grimsby in the Third Round of the F.A. Cup-tie played at The Hawthorns.

NOTTM. FOREST (1) 3 (Francis 2, Ponte)	
BOLTON (1) 3 (Hoggan 2, Whatmore)	22,920
Nottm. Forest: Shilton, Anderson, Gray, McGovern, Lloyd, Gunn, O'Neill, Ponte, Francis, Wallace, Robertson.	
Bolton: Peacock, Graham, McElhinney, Wilson, Jones (Nicholson), Brennan, Nikolic, Whatmore, Hoggan, Kidd, Gowling.	

NOTTS COUNTY (1) 2 (Manns, Christie)	
BLACKBURN (1) 1 (Burke)	7,885
Notts County: Leonard, Benjamin, Wood, Bevan, Kilcline, Hunt, Manns, Harkouk, Christie, Masson, Hooks.	
Blackburn: Butcher, Branagan, DeVries, Burke, Keeley, Fazackerley, Brotherton, Stonehouse, Crawford, McKenzie, Parkes (Garner).	

ORIENT (0) 1 (Jennings)	
LUTON (0) 3 (Moss 2 (1 pen), Ingram)	9,891
Orient: Day, Hughton, Roffey, Taylor T, Gray, Parsons, Chiedozi, Moores, Jennings, Bowles, Taylor P.	
Luton: Findlay, West, Donaghy, Grealish, Saxby, Price, Hill, Stein, Ingram, Aizlewood, Moss.	

PETERBOROUGH (0) 1 (Cooke)	
CHESTERFIELD (0) 1 (Crawford)	8,631

PLYMOUTH (1) 1 (Kemp)	
CHARLTON (0) 2 (Powell, Hales)	9,499

PORT VALE (0) 1 (Beech)	
ENFIELD (1) 1 (Bishop)	5,538

PRESTON (0) 3 (Houston, Bruce, McGee)	
BRISTOL ROVERS (4) 4 (Mabbutt, Barrowclough, Barrett, Williams)	6,248
Preston: Tunks, Taylor, Baxter, O'Riordan, McAteer, Coleman, Burns (McGee), Doyle, Houston, Elliott, Bruce.	
Bristol Rovers: Kite, Giles, McCaffrey, Hughes, Jones, Williams, Mabbutt, Emmanuel, Lee, Barrowclough, Barrett.	

QPR 0	
TOTTENHAM 0	28,829
QPR: Burnidge, Shanks, Gillard, Fenwick, Wicks, Roeder, Flanagan, King, Stainrod, Waddock, Silkman.	
Tottenham: Daines, Yorath, Miller, Roberts, Lacy, Perryman, Brooke, Archibald, Villa (Galvin), Hoddle, Crooks.	

SOUTHAMPTON (2) 3 (Moran, Keegan, Baker)	
CHELSEA (0) 1 (Lee)	23,694
Southampton: Wells, Golac, Holmes, Williams, Watson, Nicholl, Keegan (Hebbert), Channon, George, Moran, Baker.	
Chelsea: Borota, Locke, Rofe, Bumstead (Driver), Droy, Chivers, Britton, Fillery, Lee, Walker, Rhoades-Brown.	

STOKE (1) 2 (Chapman, Bracewell)	
WOLVES (2) 2 (Eves, Bell)	24,737
Stoke: Fox, Evans, Hampton, Doyle, Dodd, O'Callaghan, Bracewell, Richardson, Chapman, Heath, Munro.	
Wolves: Bradshaw, Palmer, Hollifield, Daniel, Brazier, Berry, Hibbitt, Atkinson, Bell, Richards, Eves.	

SWANSEA (0) 0	
MIDDLESBROUGH (2) 5 (McAndrew, Angus, Hodgson 2, Cochrane)	18,015
Swansea: Stewart, Attley, Hadziabdic, Rushbury, Stevenson, Phillips, Mahoney, James R, Curtis, Charles (Giles), Robinson.	
Middlesbrough: Platt, Craggs, Bailey, Angus, Ashcroft, Nattrass, Cochrane, Proctor, Hodgson, Shearer, McAndrew.	

WEST HAM (0) 1 (Stewart pen)	
WREXHAM (0) 1 (Davis)	30,137
West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin, Devonshire, Holland, Goddard, Cross, Brooking, Pike.	
Wrexham: Davies, Hill, Jones, Davis, Cegielski, Arkwright, Buxton (Fox), Sutton, Edwards, McNeil, Cartwright.	

WIMBLEDON 0	
OLDHAM 0	4,693
Wimbledon: Beasant, Jones, Armstrong, Galliers, Smith, Cunningham (Downes), Ketteridge, Danny, Leslie, Cork, Hubbick.	
Oldham: Platt, Edwards, Blair, Keegan, Clements, Hurst, Wyde, Fletcher, Steel, Palmer, Kowenicki.	

Third Division

BRENTFORD 0	
BURNLEY 0	6,380

GILLINGHAM 0	
ROTHERHAM 0	3,748

NEWPORT (1) 4 (Waddle, Lowndes, Moore, Tynan)	
SHEFFIELD UTD (0) 0	6,630

WALSALL 0	
MILLWALL 0	3,198

Fourth Division

ALDRSHOT 0	
NORTHAMPTON 0	2,992

BOURNEMOUTH (0) 0	
STOCKPORT (1) 1 (Leigh))	2,822

DARLINGTON 0	
YORK 0	3,209

ROCHDALE (1) 2 (Jones 2)	
CREWE (0) 0	2,540

WIGAN (0) 0	
SOUTHEND (0) 1 (McAdam (og))	5,237

Bradford v Halifax, Tranmere v Lincoln postponed.

Scottish Premier

AIRDRIE (1) 1 (McCloy (og))	
RANGERS (0) 1 (Dawson)	12,000
Airdrie: Martin, Kennedy, McCluskey, March, Rodger, Walker, McCulloch, Gordon, Russell (Thompson), McGuire (McKeown), Clark.	
Rangers: McCloy, Miller, Jardine, Forsyth, Dawson, Russell (McKay), Bett, Redford (McLean), Cooper, McAdam, MacDonald.	

CELTIC (3) 3 (McGarvey 2, Provan)	
MORTON (0) 0	14,900
Celtic: Bonner, McGrain, Aitken, McAdam, Reid, Sullivan, Weir, Burns, Provan, McGarvey, Nicholas.	
Morton: Baines, Hayes, McLoughlin, Orr, Holmes, Rooney, Busby, Thompson, McNeil (Bruce), Tormie, Hutchison (Ritchie).	

DUNDEE UTD (2) 7 (Gibson, Kirkwood 2, Addison, Dodds, Milne, Bannon)	
KILMARNOCK (0) 0	6,474
Dundee Utd: McAlpine, Kirkwood, Hegarty, Narey, Kopel, Gibson (Pettigrew), Phillip, Bannon, Milne (Addison), Sturrock, Dodds.	
Kilmarnock: Wilson (A), McLean, McClurg (Maxwell), Armstrong, Cockburn, Mauchlen, Clarke, Wilson (G), Houston, Bourke (McBride), Hughes.	

PARTICK (1) 1 (Watson (pen))	
HEARTS (0) 0	3,500
Partick: Rough, Welsh, Campbell, Anderson, Whitaker, Park, Watson, Jardine, Sweeney (Clark), Doyle, O'Hara.	
Hearts: Brough, Hamilton (Robinson), Liddell, More, Shields, Conn, MacDonald, Masterton, Hamill, Gibson, O'Brien.	

ST. MIRREN (0) 1 (Bone)	
ABERDEEN (0) 1 (Scanlon (pen))	11,100
St. Mirren: Thomson, Young, Copland, Fulton, Beckett, Stark, Richardson, McCormack, Bone, Somner, Weir.	
Aberdeen: Leighton, Kennedy, McLeish, Miller, Rougvie, Simpson, Watson, Angus, McCall (Hewitt), McGhee, Scanlon.	

Scottish First

AYR (1) 3 (Armour, Fry, Connor)	
EAST STIRLING (0) 3 (Lamont, McCulley, Kelly)	2,339

CLYDEBANK (1) 1 (Miller)	
STIRLING (0) 1 (Steele)	500

LINE-UPS...RESULTS...

FALKIRK (0) 1 (Oliver)
RAITH (0) 0 1,500

HAMILTON (2) 4 (Brown, Howie, McDowall, Deeney)
DUNDEE (1) 2 (Stephen, Geddes) 2,500

HIBERNIAN (1) 1 (Murray)
DUMBARTON (0) 0 5,546

ST. JOHNSTONE (0) 1 (McCoist)
BERWICK (0) 0 2,365

Dunfermline v Motherwell postponed.

Scottish Second

QUEEN'S PARK (0) 1 (Nicholson)
MEADOWBANK (1) 1 (Jobson) 750

Scottish Cup

(Second Round)

FORFAR (0) 0
BRECHIN (2) 2 (Graham, Campbell) 1,891

HAWICK R.A. (1) 2 (Loughran, McConnel)
COWDENBEATH (0) 2 (Steel, McGee) 1,000

INVERNESS THISTLE (1) 2 (Black (pen), Guyarn)
MONTROSE (0) 0 2,000

ROTHES (0) 1 (Ross (pen))
CLYDE (1) 5 (Masterton 3, Evans, McKen (og)) 1,200

STENHOUSEMUIR 0
SPARTANS 0 400

STRANRAER (2) 2 (Sim, Gibb)
BUCKIE THISTLE (1) 2 (Kennedy, Duncan) 350

Albion v Arbroath, QoS v East Fife postponed.

Tuesday, January 6

F.A. Cup

(Third Round replays)

BOLTON (0) 0
NOTTM. FOREST (0) 1 (Francis) (set) 22,799
Bolton: Peacock, Graham, McElhinney, Wilson, Nicholson, Brennan, Nikolic, Whatmore, Hoggan, Kidd, Gowing.
Nottm Forest: Shilton, Anderson Gray, McGovern, Lloyd, Burns, O'Neill, Ward, Francis, Bowyer, Robertson.

CARLISLE (0) 2 (Beardsley, McDonald)
MANSFIELD (1) 1 (Pollard) 6,929

CHESTERFIELD (1) 1 (Hunter)
PETERBOROUGH (2) 2 (Cooke) 8,216

COVENTRY (0) 1 (Thompson)
LEEDS (0) 0 22,057

Coventry: Sealey, Coop, Roberts, Blair, Dyson, Gillespie, Bodak, Daly, Thompson, Hateley, Bannister.
Leeds: Lukic, Gray, Hird, Flynn, Hart, Cherry, Parlano, Chandler, Hamson, Sabella, Graham.

ENFIELD (2) 3 (Bishop, King, Howell)
PORT VALE (0) 0 6,499

FULHAM 0
BURY 0 (set) 6,582

OLDHAM (0) 0
WIMBLEDON (0) 1 (Cork) 6,789

Oldham: Platt, Edwards, Blair, Keegan, Clements, Hurst, Wyld, Atkinson (Hilton), Steel, Palmer, Kownicki.
Wimbledon: Beasant, Jones, Armstrong, Galliers, Smith, Brown, Ketteridge, Denny, Leslie, Cork, Hubbick (Hodges).

WOLVES (0) 2 (Eves, Hibbitt)
STOKE (1) 1 (Heath) 22,892

Wolves: Bradshaw, Palmer, Hollifield, Daniel, McAllie, Berry, Hibbitt, Atkinson, Bell, Richards, Eves.
Stoke: Fox, Evans, Hampton, Dodd, Cook, Doyle, Bracewell, Heath, Chapman, Maguire, Munro.

WREXHAM 0
WEST HAM 0 (set) 13,643

Wrexham: Davies, Hill, Jones, Davis, Cegielski, Arkwright, Fox, Sutton, Edwards, McNeil, Cartwright.
West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin, Devonshire, Holland, Goddard, Cross, Brooking, Pike.

Wednesday, January 7

F.A. Cup

(Third Round replay)

SUNDERLAND (1) 1 (Rowell)
BIRMINGHAM (0) 2 (Bertschin, Evans) AET 27,793

Sunderland: Turner, Whitworth, Bolton, Hindmarch, Elliott, Rowell, Arnott (Cooke), Brown, Hawley, Chisholm, Cummins.

Birmingham: Wealdens, Langan, Lees, Curbishley, Gallagher (Evans), Todd, Ainscow, Bertschin, Worthington, Gemmill, Lynex.

BRIGHTON (0) 0 26,928
MANCHESTER UNITED (1) 2 (Nicholl, Birtles)

Brighton: Moseley, Gregory, Stevens, Horton, Foster, Lawrenson, McNab, Ritchie, Robinson, Clark (Smith), O'Sullivan.

Man. Utd.: Bailey, Nicholl, Albiston, Wilkins (Duxbury), McQueen, Buchan, Coppell, Birtles, Jordan, Macari, Thomas.

BRISTOL CITY (1) 2 (Mabbutt, Ritchie)
DERBY (0) 0 13,649

Bristol city: Shaw, Sweeney, Hay, Aitken, Rodgers, Marshall, Tainton, Fitzpatrick, Mabbutt, Ritchie, Pritchard.

Derby: Jones, Emery, Richards, Clarke, Osgood, Ramage, Powell, Hector, Biley, Swindlehurst, Reid (Emson).

TOTTENHAM (2) 3 (Crooks, Galvin, Hoddle)
QPR (0) 1 (Stainrod) 36,294

Tottenham: Daines, McAllister, Miller, Roberts, Lacy, Parryman, Brooke, Archibald, Galvin, Hoddle, Crooks.

QPR: Burridge, Shanks, Gillard, Fenwick, Wicks, Roeder, Flanagan (McCreary), King, Stainrod, Currie, Silkman.

Friday, January 9

Fourth Division

SOUTHDOWN (0) 1 (Cusack)
DARLINGTON (0) 0 5,066

Stockport v Torquay postponed.



Kevin Hird of Leeds in action against Coventry City.

Saturday, January 10

First Division

ASTON VILLA (1) 2 (Withe, Mortimer)
LIVERPOOL (0) 0 47,970

Aston Villa: Rimmer, Swain, Gibson, Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Brammer, Shaw, Withe, Cowans, Morley.

Liverpool: Clemence, Neal, Kennedy A, Irwin, Kennedy R, Money, Dalglish, Lee, Johnson, McDermott, Souness.

COVENTRY (0) 1 (Hunt)

MANCHESTER CITY (0) 1 (Mackenzie) 18,248

Coventry: Sealey, Coop, Roberts, Blair, Dyson, Gillespie, Thomas, Daly, Thompson, Ferguson, Hunt.

Man. City: Corrigan, Ranson, McDonald, Reid, Power, Caton, Boyer, Gow, Mackenzie, Hutchison, Reeves.

CRYSTAL PALACE (1) 1 (Boyle)
STOKE (0) 1 (Doyle) 14,154

C. Palace: Gennos, Hinchelwood, Boyle, Nicholas, Cannon, Gilbert, Lovell, Francis, Sealy, Carter, Hilaire (Smithie).

Stoke: Fox, Evans, Hampton, Dodd, O'Callaghan, Doyle, Bracewell, Griffiths, Chapman, Richardson, Munro.

EVERTON (0) 1 (O'Keefe)
ARSENAL (0) 2 (Gatting, Vaessen) 29,630

Everton: McDonagh, Gidman, Bailey, Wright, Ratcliffe, Ross, McMahon, Eastoe, Varadi, Hartford, O'Keefe.

Arsenal: Jennings, Devine, Sansom, Davis, Walford, Young, Hollins (Price), Vaessen, Stapleton, Gatting, McDermott.

IPSWICH (0) 2 (Mariner, Muhren)
NOTTM. FOREST (0) 0 25,701

Ipswich: Cooper, Burley, Mills, Thijssen, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Mariner, Brazil, O'Callaghan.

Nottm. Forest: Shilton, Anderson, Gray, McGovern, Needham, Burns, O'Neill, Ward, Francis, Bowyer, Robertson.

LEEDS (0) 0
SOUTHAMPTON (1) 3 (Channon, Holmes 2) 21,007

Leeds: Lukic, Hird, Gray, Flynn, Hart, Cherry, Parlano (Harris), Hamson, Chandler, Sabella, Graham.

Southampton: Wells, Golac, Holmes, Williams, Watson, Nicholl, Keegan, Channon, George, Moran, Baker.

LEICESTER (0) 0
WBA (2) 2 (Bennett, Deehan) 17,778

Leicester: Wallington, Williams, Gibson, Peake (Goodwin), Scott, O'Neill, Lineker, Buchanan, Melrose, Wilson, MacDonald.

WBA: Godden, Batson, Cowdrill, Moses, Wile, Bennett, Robson, Brown, Deehan, Owen, Barnes.

MANCHESTER UNITED (1) 2 (McQueen, Macari)
BRIGHTON (0) 1 (Ritchie) 42,208

Man. Utd.: Bailey, Nicholl, Albiston, Wilkins (Duxbury), McQueen, Buchan, Coppell, Birtles, Jordan, Macari, Thomas.

Brighton: Moseley, Gregory, Stevens, Horton, Foster, Lawrenson, McNab, Ritchie, Robinson, Smith, O'Sullivan.

SUNDERLAND (2) 3 (Rowell 2, Cummins)
NORWICH (0) 0 17,749

Sunderland: Turner, Whitworth, Bolton, Hindmarch, Elliott, Rowell, Arnott, Cummins, Brown, Hawley, Chisholm.

Norwich: Baker, McDowell, Symonds, McGuire, Hooley (Bennett), Watson, Mendham, Fashanu, Royle, Peddon, Jack.

TOTTENHAM (0) 1 (Crooks)
BIRMINGHAM (0) 0 24,909

Tottenham: Daines; McAllister, Miller, Roberts, Lacy, Parryman, Brooke (Mazzon), Archibald, Galvin, Hoddle, Crooks.

Birmingham: Wealdens, Langan, Lynex, Curbishley, Gallagher, Todd, Ainscow, Bertschin, Worthington, Gemmill, Evans.

WOLVES (1) 3 (Hibbitt, Eves 2)
MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 0 16,253

Wolves: Bradshaw, Palmer, Hollifield, Daniel, McAllie, Berry, Hibbitt, Atkinson, Bell, Richards, Eves.

Middlesbrough: Platt, Craggs, Bailey, McAndrew, Ashcroft (Angus), Nettrass, Cochrane, Proctor, Hodgson, Shearer, Armstrong.

Second Division

BLACKBURN 0
WATFORD 0 9,466

Blackburn: Butcher, Branagan, De Vries, Kendall (Hamilton), Keeley, Fazackerley, Brotherston, Stonehouse, Garner, Burke, Speight.

Watford: Sherwood, Rice, Harrison, Taylor, Terry, Jackett, Callaghan, Blissett, Armstrong, Train, Poskett.

BRISTOL CITY (0) 0
CAMBRIDGE (1) 1 (Marshall (og)) 9,727

Bristol City: Moller, Sweeney, Hay, Aitken, Rodgers, Marshall, Tainton, Fitzpatrick, Mabbutt, Ritchie, Pritchard.

Cambridge: Key, Donaldson, Murray, Smith, Fallon, Finney, Streets, Spriggs, Reilly, Taylor, Christie.

DERBY (1) 2 (Gillies (og), Biley)
BRISTOL ROVERS (0) 1 (Lee) 15,015

Derby: Jones, Emery, Buckley, Powell S, McFarland, Ramage, Reid, Powell B, Biley, Swindlehurst, Emson.

Bristol Rovers: Kite, Gillies, Jones, McCaffrey, Hughes, Emmanuel, Williams, Barrowclough, Lee, Mabbutt, Barratt (Cooper).

BIG MATCHES OF THE DAY

Saturday, January 31st

Villa v Man. City

THIS will be the 100th League meeting of these two clubs, who first met in this competition on October 21st, 1899 when a crowd of about 25,000 at the Aston Grounds (as Villa Park was then known) saw the home side recover from being a goal down to win 2-1. Villa were Football League Champions at that time and won the title again that season.

So far Aston Villa have won 41 and Manchester City 33, while 25 games have been drawn, including the last three. City have won only seven times in 49 visits to Villa Park, the last time being in 1977-78 when Dennis Tueart got a hat-trick in a 4-1 win.

When they met last August, Villa were leading 2-0, both scored by Peter Withe, before City came back to snatch a point through Dennis Tueart and Ray Ranson.

Arsenal v Coventry

COVENTRY'S 3-1 win over Arsenal last August was only their fifth victory over The Gunners in 27 League meetings, and if they could pull it off on Saturday it would be their first League double over the London club since 1969-70, when they won 1-0 at Highbury and 2-0 at Highfield Road. Since then Coventry have won only once in ten visits to Highbury — 2-0 (Brian Alderson and Tommy Hutchison) in 1972-73.

Nobody enjoys a game against Coventry more than Frank Stapleton and he will be hoping to add to his tally of seven goals in eight First Division games against The Sky Blues this Saturday at Highbury.

Ipswich v Stoke

STOKE haven't scored more than a single goal in any of their last ten visits to Ipswich. The last time they got a couple was in November, 1963 when John Ritchie and Peter Dobing were their scorers in a 2-0 victory. Since then Stoke have won one and drawn three of their ten League visits to Portman Road, the win being a solitary goal from Dave Goodwin in 1976-77. Last season Ipswich won comfortably 3-1 and will be looking for a repeat performance this time.

Wolves v W.B.A.

THIS local derby has provided some hectic battles in the past, and in the old days it was reckoned that you could depend on a lot of goals when these two sides met.

At Christmas, 1893 Albion won 8-0 on Wolverhampton's ground, but since then Wolves have registered four lots of five goals, while there was that 7-0 hiding Albion suffered as recently as March, 1963 in a game that had been rearranged when the original meeting was abandoned with Wolves leading 2-0.

More recently, with the exception of Albion's 3-0 win at Molineux in 1978-79, these games have been low scoring affairs. Their last four meetings have resulted in draws.

TAKE A BREAK—IT'S

Quiz Time

TRUE or FALSE?

1. Former Leeds United and Scotland international Billy Bremner is manager of Fourth Division Darlington.
2. Scottish First Division club Hamilton have won the Scottish Cup once and been runners-up on two occasions.
3. Reading play their home Third Division games at Elm Park and are managed by Maurice Evans.
4. Middlesbrough's David Armstrong is a full international player for England after his appearance against Australia last year.
5. Aston Villa hold the record of seven F.A. Cup Final victories.

JUMBLED MIDFIELDERS

Rearrange the jumbled letters to find the names of some of Britain's top midfield players and their clubs.

1. YRAKSWILIN (HSAR-TEENMCTNIDUE)
2. ARNBITHNOOR (GNROBITH)
3. DGOONRTAANRCSH (EERANBD)
4. MSYAMELE(VLOLRIOPE)
5. HONJKAWR (SHICPW)
6. RMOUDMLCODE (TLCCIE)
7. MJITBTE (GSRRNEA)
8. TVEESCMZEEIAKN (ARETESCMHNYICT)
9. NNAEOMNNNOBA (EEUDDNNDUEIT)
10. VEETSTTGGANI (SAALRNE)



PICTURE PUZZLE

Study this photograph, taken between Ipswich Town and Nottingham Forest on January 10th, 1981, and see if you can answer the following questions about the game.

1. Who is the Ipswich Town midfielder clearing?
2. And the Forest star attempting to stop him?
3. Where was the game played?
4. What was the final result?

STAN BOWLES

See if you can answer the following questions about the controversial Orient star's career.

1. Stan has played for six other League clubs. Manchester City, Carlisle United, Queens Park Rangers and Nottingham Forest are four... can you name the other two? *CREWE*
2. Was Stan a member of Forest's successful European Cup-Winning side of last season? *NO*
3. Bowles has represented England at full level on five, six or seven occasions? *SIX*
4. Was Bowles with Q.P.R. when they finished runners-up in the First Division Championship race in 1975-76? *YES*



TRACE-A TEAM

The names of 12 past or present Sheffield Wednesday players are spelt out in this frame in straight lines, either horizontally, vertically or diagonally and forwards or backwards. How many can you find?

A	L	M	S	G	W	R	S	H	R	L	N
E	R	O	N	H	M	S	L	C	T	O	B
P	N	D	E	A	F	N	G	O	O	H	I
L	B	O	D	C	R	S	E	L	M	X	M
V	G	C	S	C	M	R	L	L	C	D	S
O	I	N	S	N	M	A	U	U	L	A	F
R	C	D	I	F	H	C	C	C	O	U	M
E	G	K	G	K	K	O	T	C	W	O	M
D	M	O	C	B	W	E	J	M	E	C	B
L	E	A	M	E	B	R	O	L	Y	A	T
O	L	E	N	G	C	G	M	T	D	V	O
B	O	M	G	N	I	R	E	K	C	I	P

ANSWERS:

John McGovern 3. Portman Road. Blackhall, Pickering, Johnson, Lowe. Taylor, King, Owen, Curran, McCulloch. **PICTURE PUZZLE:** 1. Arnold Muhren, 2. True. **TRACE-A-TEAM:** Bolder, Cox, Mullen, No. 3, Five, 4. Yes. **STAN BOWLES:** 1. Bury and Crewe, 2. Steve Gattin (Arsenal), 3. Farnham (Dundee United), 4. Mackenzie (Manchester City), 5. Celtic, 6. Jim Bett (Rangers), 7. Steve John (Ipswich), 8. Murdoch (Leeds), 9. Sammy Lee (Liverpool), 10. (Brighton), 3. Gordon Strachan (Aberdeen), 2. Brian Horton (Manchester United), 1. Ray Williams. **JUMBLED MIDFIELDERS:** 1. 2-0 to Ipswich, 2. 2-0 to Ipswich, 3. 2-0 to Ipswich, 4. 2-0 to Ipswich, 5. 2-0 to Ipswich, 6. 2-0 to Ipswich, 7. 2-0 to Ipswich, 8. 2-0 to Ipswich, 9. 2-0 to Ipswich, 10. 2-0 to Ipswich. **ON THE BALL ANSWERS:—** **ACROSS:—** (3) Idol, (4) Aim, (6) Munro, (7) Kelly, (10) Ago, (14) Wright, (15) John Wile, (17) Williams, (18) United, (19) Apr, (21) Snags, (23) Irish, (24) Ink, (25) Carr. **DOWN:—** (1) Jimmy, (2) Johnston, (4) All, (5) Boa, (8) Edgeley, (9) Lit, (11) Gowing, (12) Train, (13) Allen, (16) American, (18) Urm, (20) Rix, (21) Shirt, (22) Ask.

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YOU may have read in the papers that I have had my Wolves contract extended by another year. I'm not sure how that story got out, because it's not true. Here are the facts.

What happened was that I was given a rise. The club kept their promise made 18 months ago when I joined them, but my contract remains unchanged in terms of length.

I have just over three years remaining and I'll be 28 when that ends. John Barnwell told me when we were negotiating that if Wolves hadn't had any success in five years he wouldn't be at Molineux. From my point of view, the five-year contract gave me security and at the same time at 28 I shan't be too old to negotiate another contract ... with Wolves or whoever.

There were stories that I joined Wolves only for the money. This wasn't the case and I could have earned more by staying with Aston Villa. The manager and I agreed that when I'd proved my fitness we'd talk about an increase in salary.

The boss was as good as his word and it was typical of him to give me a boost by agreeing while I was recovering from the only injury I've had in a season and a half at Molineux.

I'm now 100 per cent fit again after damaging knee ligaments. That was a sickener. I've said many times in SHOOT that Wolves fans would see the best of me this season and before the injury I was happy with my form and pleased to be back in the Scotland team.

Lucky

Someone asked me if I thought I was one of those players whom Lady Luck didn't smile upon. I replied that I've been lucky to have so much thanks to football. Any injuries or setbacks are more than outweighed by the good times.

When I go out to play I never worry about injury. That's a defeatist attitude and if you think like that chances are you will get hurt.

Incidentally, during one reserve game I played there were no less than seven past or current internationals on view. For Wolves there was Mick Kearns (Eire), Rafael Villazan (Uruguay), Emlyn Hughes (England), Willie Carr and myself for Scotland. Playing for Nottingham Forest were Scots John O'Hare and Ian Wallace. Not bad for the 'stiffs', eh?

I played a little deeper than usual in these comeback matches, just behind the main strikers, rather like Eric Gates does for Ipswich Town.

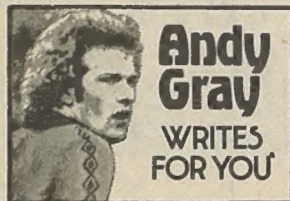
The boss didn't want to risk any unnecessary battering on the knee, so instead of my usual centre-forward spot I was somewhere between midfield and attack.

Needless to say it was only a temporary measure because Andy Gray is very much a striker.

This Saturday (January 31st) I hope to be lining up against West Brom at Molineux, because I always enjoy playing against Albion.

While I wouldn't write them off

'Wolves kept their promise to me'



for the Championship, I'd say it was a three-club race between Ipswich, Villa and Liverpool. If I were a betting man I'd put my money on the East Anglians, who seem to be beating teams easily.

They have so many potential goalscorers and despite injury problems they've kept up a winning streak. I said at the beginning of the season that Liverpool wouldn't win the title ... although I wasn't sure who would. Now I'm more certain!

West Brom need to beat teams like Wolves to keep their hopes alive, just as we must defeat them to ease our relegation worries. We seem to be out of our bad patch and it's been heartening to see players such as Kenny Hibbitt, Mel Eves and Geoff Palmer recover their best form.

We've lost three of our last nine League games, but in that time we met Liverpool twice, plus Forest and Man. City — not exactly the easiest of opposition.

Already we have won more home games than we did in all of last season and I'm confident we'll stay up, although no one at the club is complacent about the situation.

Incidentally, I mentioned at Christmas that our Old English

Sheepdog, Ben, was about to become a dad. He now has seven little sons and daughters and as I write we hope to be selling them. Having seven pups scampering around has kept us busy and nice as they are I'll be glad when they find new homes!

Join me again in a fortnight,

Andy Gray



"Kenny Hibbitt (dark shorts) has recovered his best form for Wolves this season."

Brighton v Spurs

Saturday, January 31st



ALTHOUGH Neil McNab will have no mixed feelings about the outcome of Spurs' visit to the Goldstone, he warns his former colleagues that despite Brighton's lowly League position they will certainly not prove to be easy meat.

"On our day we can beat anybody, as we've proved by taking both points off Ipswich and Aston Villa this season.

"Much will depend on how we play, but if we can reproduce the form we showed after Christmas I see no reason why we shouldn't win," McNab predicted.

the best attacking sides in the country.

"Hodde and Ardiles were on song for them that day but Gordon Smith played very well for us.

"Our League position is very false as we've got far too many good players to be near the bottom, which is why I am certain that there is no way we'll be going down," McNab commented.

McNab is also confident that Saturday's match will continue his club's revival, which started when they took maximum points from their three matches over the Christmas period.

McNab wants to end his jinx

But whatever the result McNab is determined to end the jinx which has haunted him since he left White Hart Lane to join Bolton before moving to the South Coast.

"I've never played well against Spurs either for Bolton or for Brighton," McNab reflected.

"I can't explain it other than to say that I know I can do well against them and feel that in the past I have probably been trying too hard to prove it.

"To me it's always a strange feeling playing against old friends, which is probably another reason for my disappointing performances, but I'll be treating it as another game and will be going flat out to help Brighton win."

McNab is only too aware of how vital it is for Brighton to take both points on Saturday in their struggle to avoid relegation to the Second Division.

"We showed what we could do when we played them up there in the early part of the season by getting a point, which was a good result for us as Spurs are one of

"Those results certainly made up for the times when we've been unlucky and lost though not playing badly.

"I think it takes up to Christmas for struggling clubs to realise they could be in a lower Division the following season," McNab said.

McNab is also certain that a Brighton victory on Saturday will help compensate the fans for the disappointment of losing to Manchester United twice in the same week earlier last month.

'Best Game'

"Those results were very frustrating — especially as we should have won that first Cup-tie and then we played our best game against them the following week and were still beaten.

McNab commented: "While it's nice to have a run in the Cup and continue the winning habit, I'd rather play against the elite every week rather than winning the Cup and finding myself playing in Division Two the next season.

"Certainly I've become a much better player since I left Spurs.

"I don't feel that I've got a point to prove on Saturday, but I would love to do well against them for once as it is sure to be a hard fought game in front of a big crowd."



Glenn Hoddle scores for Spurs against Brighton this season. McNab (left) can only watch.

NEW STAR DUXBURY ACCEPTS BEING DROPPED

AS Manchester United's Championship challenge has faltered under a plethora of drawn games and suffered from a treatment room often resembling a scene from 'General Hospital', so manager Dave Sexton's problems have steadily multiplied.

Happily, his injured stars have all returned to action in recent weeks, and Garry Birtles has at long last got his name on the goalscoring list. There is a distinctly less oppressive atmosphere hanging over Old Trafford these days.

The return of Ray Wilkins has come as a particular relief to a United side lacking leadership in the centre of the park, but what should have been a blessing has only served to add to Sexton's headaches.

For in Wilkins' absence during the first five months of the season, Sexton took a calculated gamble by pitching 21-year-old Mike Duxbury into the thick of the action.

The youngster responded to the challenge better than anybody at United could have dared to hope for, and now Sexton faces the agonising task of leaving Duxbury out.

It was interesting to note that for Wilkins' first games back, in the F.A. Cup Third Round replay at Brighton and again against The Seagulls in the League, young Duxbury was kept on the substitute's bench while the more experienced Sammy McIlroy was omitted from the squad altogether.

"At the moment I don't know where I'll be playing," said Duxbury. "I've played in defence and in midfield for the first team this season, and although I prefer it in the middle of the field, I have to be realistic and accept any position that is going."

"Now that Ray, Gordon McQueen and Martin Buchan are all back, there are quite obviously going to be fewer opportunities for players like myself, Kevin Moran and Nicki Jovanovic."

"Going back to the reserves for a lengthy spell will take some getting used to but is just something I will have to accept."

The Accrington-born Duxbury has been at Old Trafford for five years, and he admits that he was aiming to make the breakthrough into the first team



this season.

"Liverpool, Everton and Arsenal all wanted to sign me when I left school, but I decided on United because I felt I'd be more likely to get an early opportunity," he explained.

"I was on the bench for one game last season, and realised that it would take something as drastic as our injury list to bring about my promotion to the League side."

"Yet I have always been patient, and the thought of leaving United in order to get regular first team football has never crossed my mind."

Duxbury's big chance finally came last September, when he was drafted into the side for the big derby clash with Manchester City at Old Trafford.

"It was a fantastic day to make my debut," Duxbury admits. I thought I was going to make a winning start, too, but in the end City snatched a late goal to make it 2-2."

Harder

Those who watched Duxbury's composed performances in his early games for United would never have guessed that he found it any harder than a reserve team match.

But he says: "It took me about ten games to get used to the pace. It's a lot faster than reserve football. Otherwise, I've not found too many problems, and all the senior professionals have been a great help."

"I feel that I have learned something with every game I've played. I think the experience of recent months has helped to make me a better player, and far from being disappointed at having to make way, I can only be thankful for the opportunity to make a name for myself."

"I know what it's all about now, and considering we've had so many injury problems I am just grateful that I have been able to keep United around the top of the table."

That seemingly never-ending injury list has almost certainly killed off United's hopes of the League title this season.

But the discovery of the young talent of Mike Duxbury has given increased hopes for success in the future.

NEXT WEEK

Aston Villa's super striker

Gary Shaw

admits: 'I'm Lazy'.

- Pat Jennings talks about his future.
- Part Two of the sensational Paul Mariner Story.
- **SPECIAL REPORT** on the Everton Revival.

Tommy Docherty Blast



Why Alan Mullery believes Steve Foster should play for England.

THE NEARLY MEN

players who deserved to win full caps.

● Preview of Nottingham Forest's Inter Continental Cup clash with Nacional of Uruguay in Tokyo.

PLUS IN COLOUR

BIRMINGHAM and SHREWSBURY

team groups + action from the recent Copa De Oro competition in South America + Focus on Celtic youngster Charlie Nicholas.

ALSO... Ray Clemence, Clive Allen, Danny McGrain and Ray Wilkins.

AND... your chance to win a Philips Video Recorder and electric shavers.

All this and much, much more in SHOOT next week — the number one soccer magazine!

FOCUS ON

Bernd Schuster

**BARCELONA and
WEST GERMANY**



Schuster leaves Belgium's Wilfried Van Moer during the European Championship Final.

FULL NAME: Bernd Schuster
BIRTHPLACE: Augsburg, West Germany
BIRTHDATE: December 22, 1959
HEIGHT: 6ft
WEIGHT: 11st 13lbs
MARRIED: Yes, to Gaby
CHILDREN: One boy, David Benjamin
CAR: The one I'm driving now in Barcelona . . . well, call it a luxury jeep!
FAVOURITE PLAYER: At the moment none. Years ago, Pele. And as a boy I always admired Franz Beckenbauer
PREVIOUS CLUBS: FC Augsburg and IFC Cologne
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Bayern Munich
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Karl-Heinz Rummenigge of Bayern Munich

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: The European Championship game in Italy when we beat Holland 3-2
HAPPIEST MEMORY: My wedding
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: All my problems with Cologne
FAVOURITE PLACES: Rome, New York . . . USA in general
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Tennis and ice-hockey
FAVOURITE FOOD: Salads, with a lot of lettuce
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Reading good, instructive books
DISLIKES: Doing nothing
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Sports programmes and Western films
BEST FRIEND: My wife Gaby

FAVOURITE SINGERS: I like most music, but particularly Rod Stewart
FAVOURITE ACTORS: Charles Bronson, Bud Spencer, Terence Hill
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My ex-boss at Cologne, Hennes Weisweiler
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: 10 caps with the West German 'A' team. And of course the European Championship
PERSONAL AMBITION: Simply to keep playing well, to give 100 per cent effort — and that my team keep winning even when I'm playing badly
IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO? I don't know! Football has been my life
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? The painter Salvador Dali

SHOOT!